

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

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No. 154.—Vol. 6.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1858.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.



GOVERNOR OF CANTON. LIEUT.-GENERAL. TARTAR GENERAL.
THE TARTAR GENERAL, THE LIEUT.-GENERAL, AND THE GOVERNOR OF CANTON, WITH THEIR SECRETARIES, PRISONERS IN THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ALLIES.



BLUE JACKETS WITH CHINESE GUIDES STARTING OFF IN SEARCH OF YEH.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE experiment which Lord Derby's Government is now trying will result in one good thing, at all events—it will throw light on the real character of English parties and the real value of English party names. For years past, we have all heard a vast deal, on the one hand, about the decay of party distinctions, and, on the other hand, about the necessity of keeping them up. This has become fatiguing and unprofitable, because, if they are really decaying—which both parties admit—it must be in consequence of some natural laws, against which in the long run very little head can be made. On the other hand, the subdivisions of opinion are become so curious that a political Linnaeus is rather more wanted than any other species of philosopher at present. And, altogether, some good may be done by inquiring what importance it is proper to attach to mere appellations, and how far our sympathies are fairly appealed to by the use of such in public life.

All such questions would be simple enough if Whig and Tory, and such epithets, bore one fixed value, like red and green, and were the same from age to age. But this is so far from being the case, that not in their most famous acceptations can they now be intelligibly used. In their views of 1688 and the House of Hanover, a Whig and Tory of to-day are practically agreed. In their attitude towards Court and country—which was the great party division of Bolingbroke's time—what distinction is there between them? The general principles of Monarchy with constitutional checks, the Protestant succession, and so forth, are just as much held by Lord Derby as by Lord John Russell. When life poenages were debated, Lord Derby pooh-poohed all precedents before the Revolution. This was flat Whiggery of the regular old school. In short, what may be called the regular ancient party distinctions do not exist—except in literary or humorous forms, like the Jacobitism of some Edinburgh men, which chiefly consists of a little extra fondness for ballads and whisky.

It will be found, indeed, that there have been successive layers, as it were, of party formation in this country, each successive one different from the last. The Toryism of Bolingbroke was of a popular kind—hostile to the Court, favourable to the press, and so forth. The Toryism of Pitt, again, was founded on the Court, and was hostile to much that older Toryism supported. Why? Because each was coloured by the circumstances of the day. The first had to use freedom to fight against Walpole. The second had to use power to fight against the French Revolution. Each was as much a creation of the time as anything else of the time. There is no unbroken chain of either Whiggism or Toryism. The names therefore chiefly serve to distinguish men rather than principles. Politically, there is no distinction between Lord John and a nominal Tory, except that Lord John is a Russell, and has certain family associations distinct from his rival. Morally, the difference is really not more important than between living in Berkeley Square, and living in Grosvenor Square. It is something of a conventional kind, and men find themselves with a certain creed of the sort, as they do with a certain coat-of-arms or livery.

There is more reality in the distinction between Liberal and Conservative; or else we may be sure these would not have come up to supersede the first. But in a bare thirty years or so, these terms have begun to run into each other in a puzzling way—a sure proof that their historical worth is dubious. Whig and Tory were nicknames, and so being applied to men according to the sides on which they sat, did not admit of confusion. Who ever heard of a Whig-Tory? But "Liberal" and "Conservative" are terms of opinion, terms of a different moral origin from the other two, and so will inevitably run into union at certain points. Fancy any man professing that he was *liberal*; that he did not allow for anybody's opinion but his own; that he was determined to think exactly like his grandfather, who was haunted all his life by the notion that Napoleon was coming here to declare a republic, and was naturally indisposed therefore to discuss political change! On the other hand, fancy a man announcing to the British public that he would conserve nothing! Which man would be maddest? or what right has anybody to pin his neighbour down to a rigid adherence to either class of fanatic?

To be sure, there is a division of men by nature itself into those who most like the past and those who most like the future—the friends of the established and the friends of change. But though it behoves every man to act, in the long-run, with one or other of these aspirations, how is the country to be divided for practical purposes into such bodies? Thank God, we have not to settle every year in Great Britain whether we prefer a monarchy or a Republic, and so on. But we have a vast deal of ordinary work to get through, which is at least as important. We have the army and the navy, and the interest of the debt to pay—we have to regulate education—we have to see that no trade suffers from any cause the removal of which comes within the scope of legislation—we have to inquire whether the social state of the poor can be amended, or the law reformed—we have colonies to manage and rival countries to watch and to treat with. Now, for the right carrying out of this great mass of work, how often is it of any great consequence whether your executive is composed of men who admire Lord Somers or of men who admire Lord Bolingbroke? Provided that you can get a working staff of intelligent and honourable persons to carry on the country's business and attend to its social condition, is this the age when a nominal variety of abstract view is the thing of vital importance?

Such are the questions which the present talk about the confused state of parties naturally suggests. The Derby Government will—either by succeeding or failing—throw light upon them. They are called Conservatives. If they conserve so exclusively that they decline to amend such things as by the consent of wise men are plainly intolerable, out they go; and any subsequent chance of a few months' reign by help of accidents, will scarcely be worth waiting for. In that case, they can only hope for a negative kind of effect upon public affairs for the rest of their days. But if they show that the removal of abuses and the introduction of improvements is no more the privilege of one party than another, then of course their chance is as good as that of their neighbours. At present, they cannot do better than just avoid most of what has been done by their predecessors. Let them be firm towards France; and quiet towards China; and more careful as well as more liberal in their India Bill; and more decent in their patronage. Less decent in the latter particular they can hardly be, for the gross way in which the Whigs and Whiggish fastened themselves, under Lord Palmerston, on public appointments, was one of the most sickening spectacles of the time. They followed Pam into the Treasury in hordes, as the boasts and creeping things followed Noah into the ark.

CAPTURE OF THE CANTON AUTHORITIES.

THE capture of the city of Canton was anticipated. We had laughed so often at the bare idea of Chinamen being pitted against our gallant tars, and equally gallant marines, that a reverse would have astonished us as much as if the dragon which accounts for eclipses in that region had descended to abet our discomfiture. But to take the nest with the big birds in it was beyond our most sanguine hopes. That they should all be captured is indeed remarkable, and as fortunate as remarkable; for if Yeh had succeeded in getting over the wall—had Peh-kwei hurried over his breakfast and then into a fast sedan-chair—if the Tartar General had devised any more stratagetic retreat than into a cupboard—the possession of the mere city would have benefited us little. It would have been impossible to give that elastic Chinese population any sense of the fact that they were captured, or, if so, to explain what effect that ought actually to have upon the breeding of ducks, or the daily enjoyment of sea-slugs stewed in butter. Yeh and his subordinates would have kept up a superb show of resistance somewhere in the interior, and our forces would have suffered all the bad consequences of an idle occupation of a most licentious and unwholesome city for some months at least; and that without the satisfaction of being permitted to sack the city and ill-treat the inhabitants.

As it is, however, affairs are well ordered for our good, or so they appear. Yeh is in durance: we can dictate to him, and he can greatly influence affairs in Peking, unless he has lost much of his old importance. As for Peh-kwei, he cheaply keeps the peace for us in Canton—a thing which would have cost us more trouble than it is worth, perhaps; while he necessarily attaches to himself, in a convenient focus, men who may prove useful, and otherwise would almost certainly prove troublesome.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE Prince of Oude has had an audience of the Emperor of the French. It is said that his Highness "presumed" a little too much. The ambassadors from the two Kings of Siam have also been received in state by the Emperor; and Prince Maharajah Dhuleep-Singh, ex-King of Lahore, has arrived in Paris. The influx of Oriental princes and statesmen into Paris begins to be remarked.

A despatch from Lord Malmesbury on the colonelizing question has been communicated by Lord Cowley to Count Walewski.

A change in the ministry of Foreign Affairs is anticipated.

A telegraphic despatch from Marseilles says, "Several hundreds of persons arrested, in all parts of France, in pursuance of the late measures of safety, have reached Marseilles. They will be placed in the Chateau d'If, waiting their removal to Lambessa (the penal colony in Algeria)."

Crowds of people have on several days assembled in the Place de la Roquette expecting to see Orsini and his fellow convicts executed. The appeal, however, had not yet been decided.

The Minister of War has sent a circular to the colonels of regiments, desiring them to grant no *congés* whatever except in cases of extraordinary urgency.

BELGIUM.

THE Belgian Senate last week was occupied with the examination of the bill for modifying the penal code in that part which relates to crimes committed or prepared in Belgium against foreign governments. The discussion was an animated one, but no amendment was presented. Eventually the bill was adopted by 34 votes to 4.

The editor of the "Drapeau" found guilty of the offence with which he was charged towards his Majesty the Emperor of the French, has been condemned to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 1,200f.

SWITZERLAND.

LETTERS from Berne state that the Federal Commissioners demand the dissolution there of the Italian Mutual Aid Society. All French refugees are to be confined to the interior.

SPAIN.

A PLOT has been discovered amongst the convicts in the Chafarinas islands, the object of which was to assassinate their keepers, and to escape into Morocco. The ringleaders in the affair have been secured, and sent to Melilla for trial.

It is believed that the Pope, as a mark of regard to the Queen of the Spanish nation, is about to confer the dignity of Cardinal on three Spanish archbishops.

The Senate has resumed its sittings, and has refused to accept the resignation of the dignity of senator offered by the Duke de la Victoria (Espartero).

AUSTRIA.

THE "Gazette" of Vienna officially announces that the Empress of Austria is *en route*.

There is a rumour abroad that the Emperor will meet Napoleon the Third at Munich some time next month.

RUSSIA.

M. DE BUDBERG, Russian Minister at the Court of Austria, has declared to the Cabinet of Vienna that his Government highly disapproves of the conduct of Prince Danilo in not preventing the Montenegrins from taking part in the insurrection in the Herzegovina. The Prince of Montenegro has been recommended by the Russian Government not to give support to the insurgents in the Turkish provinces.

The Emperor has authorised the Russian press to discuss freely the best means to be adopted for carrying out the work of emancipating the serfs; and a newspaper has just been started at Moscow, devoted to popularise still further with the upper classes of society the total abolition of serfdom. At the same time, we observe, the custom of public political banquets is greatly on the increase. A banquet, to celebrate the reforms already secured, is in preparation at St. Petersburg.

The "Czas" of Cracow states that in the sale of landed property in the government of Kiev, the announcements for that purpose no longer mention, as hitherto, the number of serfs on the estate, but its extent. This is a first result of the projected emancipation of the peasants.

Baron de Whittinghof, Captain of the Staff, and member of an ancient family, has been condemned to the loss of his title and rank, and sentenced to serve in the army as a private soldier, in consequence of having stolen registered letters and money destined for soldiers.

ITALY.

THE majority of the Bureau of the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies have terminated the examination of the bill on conspiracies against foreign sovereigns. Nearly all the Bureaux, while admitting the necessity and the principle of the measure, propose to introduce amendments which will seriously modify it.

Mr. Lyons, her Majesty's Secretary of Legation at Florence, is now at Naples to watch the trials, and to support the interests of the two engineers, unofficially; our diplomatic relations being suspended. The Marquis Provana, commandant of the Sardinian navy at La Spezia, has set out for Naples to institute an inquiry, and draw up a report to his Government, on the disputed question of the *Cagliari*.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE report of a negotiation between Turkey and England concerning the cession of the Isle of Perim for a pecuniary indemnity is officially contradicted.

There has been a fight between the Turks and Montenegrins near the Turkish fortress of Lessandria, on the Scutari Lake. The Montenegrins captured a Turkish vessel, with its guns, and twenty-five prisoners, who were immediately beheaded. Their own loss was seven killed and fourteen wounded.

The Christians of Bosnia have transmitted a petition to the Porte, in which they complain loudly of the oppressions and indignities they are subjected to by their Mussulman superiors.

It appears that political intercourse more in accordance with the European usage than it has been for some years, will henceforward prevail between Turkey and foreign Powers. The Sultan has informed the representatives of foreign Powers that they will not in future be received by him, except on the introduction of his Minister of Foreign Affairs, according to the usage of other courts.

The Sultan has made a present of some ground on the slope of the hill of Tophané for the Memorial Church.

Thirty houses in Constantinople have been destroyed by fire.

AMERICA.

IN the United States Senate, a resolution directing an inquiry into the expediency of establishing a protectorate over Mexico and the Central American States has been discussed, and laid on the table. Senator Hale, in a spirit of ridicule, moved an amendment to inquire into the British Colonies in the inquiry.

It was reported at Washington that as soon as one or two of the questions pressing upon the attention of the government were disposed of, the relations with Spain and the numerous claims of American citizens upon the Spanish Government would be taken up by Mr. Buchanan, and pressed to an immediate settlement.

A Bill had been unanimously passed by the Kentucky Legislature, and signed by the Governor, authorising the Executive of that State to raise a regiment of volunteers immediately, and to tender their services to the President of the United States, to aid in suppressing the rebellion in Utah.

The steamer *Magnolia*, bound to Fayetteville, exploded at Whitehall (North Carolina) on the 17th of February, killing from fifteen to twenty persons.

A great fire had occurred at the Pacific Hotel, St. Louis; twenty-nine persons were killed (either burned to death or killed in leaping from the windows), and many others were wounded or missing.

Five steamboats had been destroyed by fire at New Orleans. The whole of the shipping in port was at one time in a precarious condition.

Furious gales raged along the Atlantic coast, causing loss of life and great damage to shipping.

Advices from Utah state that the United States District Court of that territory had indicted Brigham Young, Kimball, and others of the "Saints" for high treason.

MEXICO.

THE latest intelligence from Mexico is deplorable. Comonfort had taken refuge at New Orleans; General Zuñiga had inaugurated a Conservative Government at San Luis de Potosi; General Alvaro had proclaimed the Dictatorship of Santa Anna. Orizaba was in the power of General Lazarus, and the Castle of Perata in the hands of the Progressistas. The Congress was convoked at Guana Prata, and preparations were on foot for marching on Mexico; whilst, in the south, Alvarez supported his candidature by arms; and in the west, General Vidauri was endeavouring to found a Republic.

AUSTRALIA.

LETTERS from Melbourne report "a great depression of trade without any very disastrous occurrence. Our imports during the last year have exceeded our purchasing power, on the last two years rather over half a million—quite enough to depress trade, and yet not such a deficiency as to protract the depression over a long period." The writer adds—"Our net gain of population from abroad was, in 1857, 41,647, which makes our population on the 31st of December last, 457,000."

The proposal to assemble a Federal Congress appears to be gaining ground; and already the colonists "look forward to the time when these colonies, occupied by one people, and living on a common soil, and speaking a common language, will be united, and take their place among the nations of the world."

So far as the legislature of Victoria was concerned, however, the members seem rather to be interested in the noble game of cricket than in affairs of State. On three nights no "house" could be formed; the members were on the cricket ground, which instantly reminded one of the Melbourne journals that "Nero fiddled while Rome was burning."

Melbourne journals also announce that ministers have introduced three bills—one to shorten the duration of Parliaments from five to three years; another to increase the number of members and alter and equalise the electoral districts on the basis of population; and a third to regulate elections, the novel and important feature of which is a provision for the representation of minorities. The bill for altering the electoral districts and increasing the number of members to ninety (from sixty) proceeds on the principle that the population of the colony being 450,000, and the number of members being 90, 5,000 is the mean number which belongs to one member. Fractional differences cannot be avoided, and from the great territorial extent of some of the thinly-peopled districts a large margin is necessary and unavoidable. Some districts have three members assigned to them, some have five, and a few have seven—all odd numbers, in order to admit of the minority-representing scheme. The plan is that in districts entitled to three members the electors shall not vote for more than two candidates; in districts having five members, for three; and in districts having seven members, for four; and it is considered that the remaining one, two, and three members as the case may be, will represent the minority. In the debate on the second reading this scheme was generally accepted by both sides of the House.

Postal communication with Europe still engaged much attention. The "Sydney Morning Herald," in giving the revenue returns of the colony from the 1st of January, 1856, to the 31st of December, 1857, remarks:—"Subjoined is a compendious view of the progress of the revenue proper during the respective periods under comparison:—"

	REVENUE PROPER.		
	December, 1856.	December, 1857.	Increase or Decrease.
Quarters	£308,976	£282,311	£26,665 dec.
Half-years	589,840	620,227	30,387 inc.
Years	1,119,296	1,155,855	36,559 inc.

Here is a decrease on the quarter of 8½ per cent.; an increase on the half-year of rather more than 5 per cent.; and an increase on the year of 3½ per cent. The customs' revenue continues to give progressive increase—£3,890 on the quarter, £9,728 on the half-year, and £21,816 on the year; or at the rate of 3, 4, and 13 per cent.

THE ALLIANCE.—A remark in a London newspaper, that "there is springing up a coalition between the English and French nations which it would require no great effort to expand into an estrangement," inspires the "Courrier de Paris" with the following reply:—"We must beg pardon of the friends of the departed Ministry, but we really cannot view in their light any result of the kind. The ground they have lost has been gained by the late Opposition, and the same logic governs both parties. France has nothing to do with the question of persons; she has merely desired her ally to do what she would be ready to effect had the state of things been reversed, and the construction of bombs been carried on on this side of the channel. We shall be as ready, on the morrow of the vote which we await from Parliament, to shake the hand of Lord Derby as we should have shaken that of Lord Palmerston."

COMMERCIAL LOSSES IN AMERICA.—From the report of an American "commercial agency," (conducted on the principle of a Trades' Protection office), it appears that out of 227,048 American firms reported on the books, 6,022 failed during the past year, and that of these failures 711 were total or fraudulent. The aggregate loss from the latter is estimated at £4,000,000. The debts of the remaining 5,281 are supposed to be some £36,000,000, on which the average dividend will not exceed 40 per cent. In this case, therefore, the loss will be £30,000,000, making the total £34,000,000. The list does not include any house that has merely asked for time, nor any railroad companies, banks, or other public undertakings. As in New York and several of the other principal States there is no bankruptcy law, anything analogous to it, the larger part of this sum has been squandered without the slightest accountability being enforced against anyone. With regard to the present condition of business, there seems still to be many difficulties to be surmounted, and weak firms to be swept away, since the failures reported during the month of January were 640, against only 510 in January, 1857.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

LETTERS and newspapers from Bombay to the 9th of February have arrived. They simply confirm our previous intelligence as to the movements of Sir Colin Campbell, the position of Outram, and the general condition of affairs in Bengal and the Panjab.

CENTRAL INDIA.—RELIEF OF SAUGOR.

Sir Hugh Rose's attack on Ratghur, which we announced in a telegraphic despatch last week, is thus described:—

"The moveable column having assembled here [at Sehore] in its strength, consisted of the 14th Dragoons, 17th Dragoons, 3rd Lancers, her Majesty's 86th Foot, 3rd European Regiment, two companies reserve detachment and Miners, 1st or Leslie's Troop head quarters, 4th Company Bombay Artillery, 1st do. 2nd Battalion, 5th Company 14th Battalion Royal Artillery, and 21st Company Royal Engineers. The General marched north-westward through Bhopal in the direction of Saugor, and along the line of the Vindhyah mountains. On the 20th of January they reached Bhilsa without opposition. The siege train was a march behind. The force was expected to encounter some resistance at a strong fort called Ratghur. On the 23rd, the detachment with the guns was ordered to push on and join the main body. They reached camp about one o'clock in the afternoon, but without their tents; having bivouacked the following night, they started on Monday morning, under orders to push on, as the enemy were moving out to defend the ford by which they were expected to cross the river. Our troops, however, forced further down, and the insurgents, thus foiled, crossed the country, and were able to fire a volley into the advanced guard as they entered the town close by the fort of Ratghur. A dragoon and native subahdar were killed. At eight a.m. on the 25th, General Rose, with his divisional staff, rode round the fort, of which a general reconnaissance, which occupied the chief part of the day, was made. It is placed upon the pear-shaped summit of a hill about 700 feet above the plain, the walls enclosing the entire of the wider end. Nearly the whole is surrounded by precipitous rocks, the only approach being by a narrow and steep ascent along the ridge. A part of the force made a feigned attack, when the General with his staff and 3rd European Regiment crept up the narrow ridge. On the 26th the heavy guns were placed in position, and the fire opened, while the 3rd Europeans drove the enemy from the heights. The rebels had proclaimed, that as the fort was provisioned for a year, and was considered strong, they were determined to maintain it to the last. On the morning of the 28th, a large body of mutineers, concealed in the thick jungles around, attempted to relieve the fort. They assailed the rear of our camp and the videttes guarding the right rear of the force. They were at once attacked and driven across the river with severe loss by Captain Hare with the Hyderabad Contingent. The garrison now fairly lost heart, and two hours before daybreak on the 29th a portion of them endeavoured to sally out of the main gate, when they were driven back by Captain Lightfoot's 9-pounders. The great body of them escaped by lowering themselves over the walls by ropes, and scrambling down the precipice. Mahomed Fazel Khan, and another rebel Nawab, were hung over the gate; the utmost kindness was shown to the women and children.

"Sir Hugh Rose marched on the 30th in the direction of Saugor, leaving Ratghur in charge of the troops of the Queen of Bhopal, who had undertaken to keep open our communications. The enemy were understood to be concentrating at the village of Banda, eleven miles in advance of Ratghur, with a view of cutting off our communications with Mhow. They were at once attacked, and driven with loss from their position in difficult broken ground and jungle, which they obstinately defended. Captain Neville, of the Royal Engineers, who had distinguished himself in the Crimea, and had here volunteered as aide-de-camp to Sir Hugh Rose, was killed by a round shot. On the 2nd the force marched for Saugor, where it arrived the following day. This fort had been beleaguered since June, in constant fear and not unfrequent danger. It was reached and relieved without opposition; upwards of one hundred women and children being amongst the number shut up. Twenty rebels were executed on the spot."

EXPLOITS OF THE RAJPOOTANA FIELD FORCE.

On the 6th of January, Rowa, near Aboo, was stormed by a detachment under Major Raines, destined to form a portion of the Rajpootana field-force. Since then £5,000 worth of gold and silver coins have been discovered in the ruins, while fifteen fine caparisoned horses were captured in the neighbourhood. We have to trace Raines's further progress in swelling up the detachments to the dimensions of a column. Sending back his sick and wounded to Deesa, Major Raines resumed his march on the 10th of January. On the 19th he was joined at the village of Jaitpoora, two miles from Awah, by a detachment from Nusseerabad under Colonel Holmes—14 guns, 840 sabres, and 1,100 bayonets. They had now reached the town of Awah, the fort of which was said to be garrisoned by 2,000 men. On passing near the walls, the Nusseerabad detachment was fired upon, when some guns and a detachment of H.M. 95th proceeded to their assistance, and soon compelled the enemy to withdraw within the walls. A reconnaissance was made during the afternoon round the fort, the enemy keeping up a heavy fire from all points. It luckily proved harmless, and the camp was established in the course of the afternoon, 1,500 yards from the walls of the fort. The defences consisted of a mud and wattle embankment about forty feet base, sloping upward to the height of nearly fifty feet. The wall was loopholed for matchlocks and jinjals, and was nearly impenetrable either by shot or shell. This was flanked by bastions, mounting from two to three guns each. Some twenty yards in advance of the inner wall was a high bank also loopholed, and protected by thorns and branches, and in advance of the whole an abattis, consisting of Awah one of the strongest towns of Rajpootana. Colonel Holmes, on the troops being united, as senior officer, took command. He considered the place much too formidable for an assault, and until a good breach had been established; and on the day the forces united, mortar and howitzer batteries were established 1,000 yards from the town. On the 20th and 22nd, two other batteries, six and seven hundred yards in advance, were constructed. That nearest the walls was armed with two 18-pounders and two 8-inch howitzers. The bombardment commenced, and continued with increasing vigour as our batteries came into operation. A mortar battery was now advanced to within 300 yards of the wall. Preparations for breaching, with a view to an immediate assault, began on the 23rd. Meanwhile the storm which prevailed over the greater part of India descended with terrible fury in Rajpootana. The night was pitchy dark, the wind blew a hurricane, the rain poured in torrents, and the thunder and lightning overmatched the roar and blaze of our artillery. In the midst of the tempest the enemy managed to escape, despite the chain of posts of Infantry and Cavalry which had been drawn so carefully round, that it seemed almost impossible to evade them. Their flight was first discovered by a portion of H.M. 95th, concealed in rifle-pits within forty yards of the wall. About 170 prisoners were taken, of whom twenty-five were executed; sixteen guns, the whole of the enemy's park, with a large quantity of ammunition, stores, grass, and grain fell into our hands.

SIR COLIN AT FUTTEGHUR.

The Commander-in-Chief stood fast at Futteghur, accumulating an enormous park, with ordnance stores, and means of carriage for an army of 15,000 men. Meanwhile the insurgents, still about 100,000 in strength, were fortifying Lucknow to the uttermost. The streets were being barricaded and the walls loopholed everywhere. Earth-works have been thrown up, and garden within garden strengthened. Sir Colin was expected to march about the 25th of February. With all the display of determination, the Lucknow insurgents are said to be losing heart. A proposition of conditional surrender is said to have been received with the reply that every mutineer would be shot or hanged—that the rest must depend upon our mercy.

The 34th Regiment, about 550 strong, have reinforced Outram, from Cawnpore. A party of the Rifles were to proceed from Cawnpore to Omas, ten miles on the Lucknow road, there to remain to keep open communications. Brigadier Campbell had moved from Allahabad to Futteghur, having with him one regiment of Dragoons, while another

remained at Allahabad; while Brigadier Carthew, who commands the Madras force, was scouring the country around. The Nena Sahib was said to be once more in the neighbourhood of Bhitoor, with some fragments of the Gwalior Contingent. Brigadier Carthew had gone out to meet him, having been joined by a party of the 34th. They returned without having succeeded in the objects they had in view.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

THE "Moniteur" of Tuesday published the following in its non-official columns:—

"At Châlons-sur-Saône on Saturday night, about nine o'clock, some forty individuals suddenly attacked a small post of infantry, which they took by surprise. They then took the direction of the railway station, shouting 'Vive la République!' 'The Republic is proclaimed in Paris!' 'The Republic is everywhere!' 'Citizens of Châlons, to arms!'"

"The station-master, an old soldier, assembled the men employed at the railway station, and drove back the rioters.

"From the railway station the mob proceeded to the bridge over the Soane, the head of which they occupied to prevent an alarm being sent to the barracks. The officers of the garrison, who had hurried to the Sous-Prefecture to ascertain what the tumult was about, cleared the bridge sword in hand. The troops soon turned out, and the mob dispersed. Before midnight fifteen of the more conspicuous ringleaders were in custody."

ENGLAND AND NAPOLEON THE THIRD.

A PAMPHLET, entitled "L'Empereur Napoleon III. et l'Angleterre," has just appeared in Paris, and there, as elsewhere, has excited considerable remark. "It is the work," we are told, "of an eminent publicist, a member of the Council of State, but the inspiration has been derived from the very highest source"—an assertion which is borne out by internal evidence.

The pamphlet begins by expressing a belief that "there is a duty to be fulfilled towards public opinion; it consists in making an impartial and calm voice be heard amid the passions which have been for a moment unjustly excited in England;" and then the authors proceed to "recall facts." When, say they, Louis Napoleon was elected President of the Republic, he only found about him, in the Assembly which was to share and often embarrass his Government, parties hostile, or unsympathetic to England. Liberalists, Republicans, Orleanists, and the partisans of the Empire, were all agreed so far.

"What was the heir of the Emperor Napoleon I. become chief of France, going to do? Was he about to yield to the rancour and prejudice of parties? Was he to foster by his example the international hatreds still alive at the recollection of Waterloo and St. Helena? Was he about to avenge, at least by his coldness, his name and character outraged by the English press at the moment of his election? No! Exile is a school of wisdom and of maturity for those whom God destines to reign. Louis Napoleon only remembered the hospitality which had soothed the trials of his days of adversity—he only considered the great interests which drew France and England together in the cause of civilisation."

Again, in 1849, when the Porte being menaced by Austria on account of the asylum it had afforded to the Hungarian refugees, a French and an English fleet proceeded to the Dardanelles, there was such susceptibility against England that the French Ministry decided not to allow the French ships to sail with the English, and that their action should be distinct. Some time after, when Lord Palmerston presented an ultimatum to Greece "which alarmed Europe," the Legislative Assembly seized the occasion to declare its hostility to England, and the French Ambassador was ordered to quit London. Then—

"The 2nd of December came. It was an act relative to our internal situation, which concerned no one abroad. Nevertheless, several English journals denounced the man who had just saved his country from frightful anarchy, and it may be, preserved Europe from convulsion. There was no sort of calumny which was not invented, and error which was not spread. The truth is that not only was there no one shot after the combat, but that the whole affair was confined in a city of 1,600,000 inhabitants, to the rising of 1,500 demagogues, of whom 150 at most fell with arms in their hands during the struggle."

The pamphlet briefly alludes to the forbearance of the chief of the French Government at a moment when it was not difficult to excite the passions of the two nations, and then passes on to the Crimean War:—

"There were not wanting persons, then, who less perceived a French than an English interest in the war in the East. Unaffected by that opinion, the Emperor sent to the Crimea double the number of soldiers as the English. A good and perfect understanding was one of the most formal instructions which he gave to the General-in-Chief. That inspiration of the Sovereign of France became the rule for our army in its relations with the English army. The trials of a terrible winter, the fatigues of a gigantic siege, the immense losses caused by fire, cold, and sickness having considerably diminished the strength of the English army, several French regiments shared with them the duties of their own lines; they helped them to open routes, to transport cannon and provisions. The English paid back that co-operation with noble reciprocity; they conveyed in their ships our troops to Bomarsund, and a part of those sent to the Crimea. At a later period, when their army was re-organised, we found with them the same devotedness which they had found with us. Their hospitals were open for our sick, their medicines were at the disposal of our soldiers. This is what passed in Russia. On the battle-field the two people were but one; the soldiers of the two allied armies had but one soul under the united flags; to combat, to suffer, to die, and to triumph together. After the peace won by their common glory, the alliance cemented by that noble fraternity of heroism and of combats seemed for ever after unalterable."

But dissensions arose on the interpretation of the conditions of peace; and the English press insulted the Emperor. "The Emperor remained impassive, and for the sake of harmony, France and Russia agreed with England."

"The question of the Principalities next followed. At the Congress of Paris, France and England were agreed for the union. At a later period the Cabinet of St. James's changed its opinion, and by an estimate of affairs to be regretted, it was the cabinet of the Tuileries that was described at London as deserting the alliance. The French Government might have justly felt hurt at that false interpretation of its conduct, which was so honest and so moderate. At that moment the revolt in India broke out. If France had been less sincere in her sentiments, less disinterested in her views, the occasion was a fine one to show herself more reserved, more exacting, perhaps, towards her ally. The Emperor thought and acted otherwise. The embarrassments which the war in India imposed on England only rendered him more conciliating at Osborne in the question of the Principalities."

We now come to "what is most painful between the two countries," the recent attempt to assassinate the Emperor. The assassins came from England. "The crime had been prepared, encouraged, paid for, perhaps, by those societies of refugees who dishonour the generous hospitality of a free country by sheltering there the permanent conspiracy of assassination." Nor was this the first attempt that emanated from London. Eight or ten of these attempts—some nipped in the bud—are mentioned; they were all concocted in England. These numerous attempts are provoked by agitation and discussion. The refugees in England encourage each other by holding meetings, delivering speeches, and circulating pamphlets, &c.

"It is necessary to state to what extent the violence and madness of these revolutionary preachings can be carried. The following fact refers to the date of the month of November, 1857, and it will be seen from it how direct provocations preceded the bombs of the 14th of January. There is a coffee-house near Temple Bar, in London, where the question to be discussed in the evening is announced in the morning. The public are invited to take part in the discussion. This coffee-house is called 'Discussion Forum.' People eat and drink there, and at the same time talk politics. A man, paid by the proprietor, presides and directs the debates. In the month of November the following order of the day was publicly posted:—'Is Regicide permitted under certain circumstances?' The question was publicly discussed."

"More than fifty pamphlets have been published, and the most of them in London, since 1852. We might give quotations here which would prove that during six years past the apology for assassination has been permanent—almost daily. . . . And the English press, in giving them publicity, either to reprove or to stigmatise them, carried them to all parts. The reprobation which they find in honourable minds is easily changed into complaints against the Government which tolerated them."

This being the case, what about the right of asylum?

"The right of asylum then need not be defended against us. Far from attacking, we respect it as one of our traditional institutions. It is not the Emperor Napoleon III. who would abandon the tradition of our history, in which are blended the recollections of his own destiny. He cannot forget that during his exile he profited by the right of asylum boldly maintained in his favour by Switzerland, and loyally practised by England in his adversity. He has no thought then of disturbing a sacred right which was his safeguard. But the right of asylum which protects the representatives or the defenders of causes that are lost must not be confounded with the right of refuge which shields assassins from the responsibility of their crime."

In London there are held meetings where assassination is glorified. In London are sold atrocious libels in which the murder of the Sovereigns of Europe is elevated to a system, to a right, to a duty—in which thrones, altars, armies, laws, the magistracy, society, and God himself, are dragged through blood and mire! Such Saturnalia surpass even barbarism. There is not a law in ancient or modern times which tolerates them; and can it be pretended that this tolerance is on the part of England merely the exercise of the right of asylum? England cannot thus understand the application of the noble right of asylum. She cannot cover with this principle of humanity crimes which have nothing human about them. Her conscience has already revolted against such an interpretation, which is alike disowned by her own history."

Reference is then made to the trial of Peltier, a French refugee, for a libel on the First Consul; and though "England seems to have forgotten the traditions and examples which we are happy to find in her history," France is not without the belief that she will return to them:—

"Lord Derby was not less explicit in the first words he spoke as head of the new Cabinet than Lord Palmerston in the last speech he delivered as Minister of the Queen. Lord Clarendon took upon himself in turn to establish the complete exactness of all the facts stated by Count Walewski in his despatch of the 20th of January. There is therefore nothing more to prove. All is henceforth ascertained and admitted by the eminent statesmen of the present Cabinet, as by the honourable members of the preceding Ministry. We are then certain that they will agree, amid their divisions, in giving to the alliance, the greatness and benefits of which they admit, all the guarantees necessary for the dignity and interest of the two peoples."

A correspondent of the "Times," who furnishes us with a translation of this pamphlet in advance of its publication, says, "You will not be much in the wrong if you look upon it as a sort of State paper, or manifesto, addressed alike to the people of France and England."

FRENCH DEMANDS UPON AUSTRIA.

It is past all doubt (says the "Times," in an unusually significant article) that the requisitions of France are beyond what the comity of nations would seem to justify. Belgium and Switzerland have already yielded as far as is possible for states which have a regard for their own independence; Sardinia has not only brought in a bill against conspiring to kill or dethrone a foreign sovereign, but is making changes in her jury system, apparently lest a liberal jury should by its decision imperil the friendship of the Emperor. But it is with Austria that an interference of the most novel kind is attempted. The forms of courtesy have certainly not been disregarded, as in the case of England, for the official indignation of Paris is sufficiently under restraint to avoid an assault on two first-rate Powers at once. But the demands of the French Emperor's Government on the Cabinet of Vienna go far beyond anything which has been attempted in our own case. We learn that M. de Bourqueney has actually demanded that the Austrian newspapers shall not be allowed to comment unfavourably on the state of France or the proceedings of the French government. The recent appointment of General Espinasse to the Ministry of the Interior is an event which naturally caused great surprise in Paris, and could hardly be uninteresting to the gossip-loving Viennese. A newspaper published some correspondence on the subject, and M. de Bourqueney was instructed to demand the "warning" in the Parisian style of the offending journal. There is certainly something most revolting in the spectacle of Frenchmen, after seventy years of continual boasting about the propagation of their ideas and the spread of their enlightenment, thus seeking not only to crush all liberty of speech and writing at home, but to strangle it in a country where it has just been born, and where it is still weak, timid, and, one would think, inoffensive. Again, Austria, much to her credit, has lately relaxed her passport system. The quiet of the Italian Provinces and the general prosperity of the empire, have encouraged the statesmen of Vienna to remove most of the restrictions which our countrymen found so onerous even two years ago. But will it be believed that the French Government demands the re-establishment of the old system in more than all its former severity? M. de Bourqueney desires that every traveller from the Italian Provinces shall obtain his passport at Milan or Venice instead of from the authorities of the place where he resides. Generally, too, as the organ of the French Government, he demands that the movements of the Italians should be more narrowly watched. Such requirements show how far the present French authorities are disposed to carry their system. They seem to us to be far beyond what one State has a right to demand of another, and we cannot but think that Count Buol has shown a just sense of what is due to his Sovereign's dignity in rejecting them. No one can accuse Austria of harbouring democrats or of encouraging libellers; and to pretend that any real danger threatens France from the present institutions of her neighbour, is more than the credulity of mankind can accept.

THE SPY SYSTEM IN PARIS.

The following is from a letter published in the "Glasgow Daily Mail." It may be premised that the writer has resided for nearly seven years in Paris:—

"I was sauntering yesterday afternoon with a friend in the Champs Elysées. The aspect of this noble promenade was strangely changed: the benches upon which the Parisians usually sit in the sun were all deserted. Loungeurs of all nations make the Champs Elysées ordinarily a sort of living and moving ethnological museum; but yesterday the most notable figures were a number of new and sinister faces, some of whom might have been taken for miserable, and some of them for genteel beggars. I observed them trying to overhear the conversation of myself and my friend, which happened to be only about the French taste in horses and equipages. Looking at a shabby little individual, I said to my friend, but not loud enough to be heard, 'That is a spy;' and my friend exclaimed, 'What a villainous face!' While we were looking at him, he came up to me, and addressing me in Italian, obsequiously begged a few 'oboli,' or small coins. Turning to my friend, I said in French, 'I believe he is a beggar.' When I put my hand to my pocket to give him an alms, the spy seized me by the left arm, and told me that I was an Italian, and he was an 'Inspectore.' I said, 'So I thought.' He told me he desired a little conversation with me, and that I must go with him to the commissary of police. My friend, believing I was talking with a beggar, was looking at the carriage, when I called out to him 'I am arrested!' The inspector said my friend must come as well. On our way to the office of the commissary, the excited little inspector told me I spoke Italian, and was an Italian, and that it was useless for me to deny it. The inspector then commenced a formal interrogation. 'What is your name?' I gave him my card. 'You are an Italian. You understand Italian. What are you doing in Paris?' 'I will answer that question to Monsieur the Commissary.' 'Ah! well, you refuse to tell what you are?' Seeing me arrested, and held by the arm, several elderly gentlemen and ladies darted at me looks of terror and horror. In the office of the commissary the inspector said he could not believe my card, because myself and my friend were walking with an 'air suspect,' or in a suspicious manner. Moreover, I knew he belonged to the police: this correct guess seemed to have given him great offence. Now, to avoid detecting spies is difficult, for they display what they are by the insolent gleams of conscious power always darting from their eyes. The secretary of the commissary, fortunately for me, answered he was sure, and would answer for it, that I was not an Italian, but an Englishman long resident in the neighbourhood; but he turned to my friend and said, 'And you, sir, of what nation are you?' The suddenness of the question taking my friend aback, I was obliged to answer for him—'Monsieur is a Russian.' The inspector then said to me, 'I beg pardon.' Looking at him steadfastly, I said, 'Oh, there are so many rascals about, you cannot be too zealous.'"

"Luckily for me this incident happened where I was well known, and my companion was not an Italian but a Russian; otherwise I should have suffered some days' imprisonment, and my daughter days and nights of agony, just because a French inspector mistook a Scotch Highlander for an Italian conspirator."

THE CASE OF MR. HODGE.—We are informed that since the Emperor Napoleon made the demand of the Sardinian Government that they should surrender Mr. Hodge, on a charge of being implicated in the conspiracy to assassinate the Emperor, Sir James Hudson, the British Ambassador at Turin, has written home to state there is not a title of evidence even to justify Mr. Hodge's arrest. The "papers," we are told, have been laid before the Attorney-General; meanwhile Mr. Hodge, who suffers from pulmonary disorder, is not unlikely to be killed by the confinement while the learned Attorney-General and Lord Malmesbury are "communicating."

the Upper and Lower Blue-Jacket Forts, and compelled their evacuation, whilst the 1st Division of the Naval Brigade made a sortie and captured Gough's Fort and the Marines' Fort, the former mounting nine guns and the other twelve, blowing up the magazines and destroying the guns and carriages.

"In the direction of the West Gate the enemy kept up a sharp fire from the reversed guns on the ramparts, and, notwithstanding the fire from the *Calcutta's* field-pieces in charge of Lieutenants Goodenough and Beamish, approached, under shelter of the wall and of some brick guard-houses, to within fifty yards of the North Gate, when Captain Sir Robert M'Clure, assisted by Captain Cochrane, made a sortie, which effectually dislodged them. The covering buildings were then destroyed, and several guns spiked or thrown over the wall. Except a desultory fire, which was returned occasionally, we suffered no further annoyance, and the fire ceased at nine P.M.

"The 59th Regiment, on scaling the wall, proceeded to the southward, and went as far as the centre of the south wall, where they sustained several casualties. Having overcome all opposition, they returned to the South-east Gate, which they occupied and held as the extreme left.

"As a diversion, and with a view to carrying the South-east Gate, Captain Hall left the river, where he had been employed on important duty, at nine o'clock, with 100 Marines and 600 officers and seamen, volunteers from the gunboats. Their services, however, had been anticipated by the rapid success that attended our force on other directions of the city walls.

Next morning (the 30th of December) the enemy sent in a flag of truce, begging permission to bury the dead, which was granted. In the afternoon the West Gate was captured. The guns on the parapet were loaded, and turned on our position, but all the defences were abandoned, and not the slightest opposition was offered. The guns, as far as the West Gate, bearing on our lines, were spiked and thrown over the walls. The force then made the circuit of the city.

On the 31st parties of Sappers and Miners commenced their preparations for blowing up Gough's Fort and the Upper Blue-Jacket Fort, outside the walls to the northward of the city, and they were destroyed on the following day, the former by the English, the other by the French.

It was on the 5th of January that the city being suddenly entered in three different places, the capture of Yeh, Poh-kwei and the Tartar General was effected, and then the present business of the allied forces was satisfactorily completed.

The streets of Canton are narrow, and the houses are mostly of one storey, and, with the exception of the public buildings and stone arches, are of mean appearance. There is a great deal of open ground inside the walls.



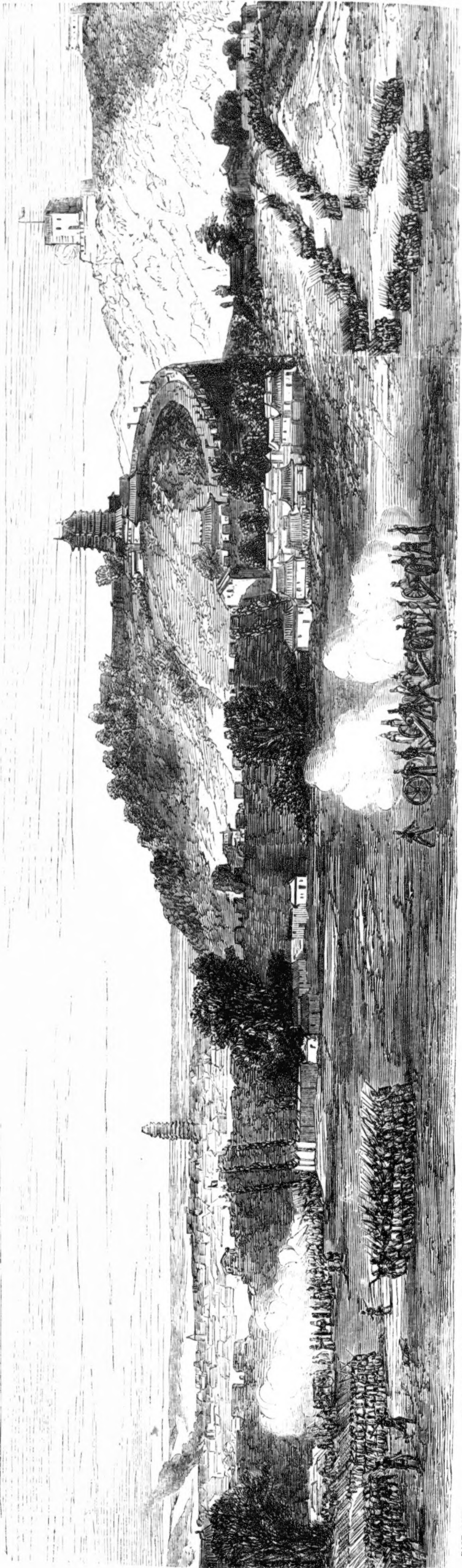
THE CAPTURE OF FORT LIN.

a position in an earth battery in an elbow of the wall inside the gate, turning the guns upon the Sailor's Fort and the enemy's troops to the westward. The rest of the second division, by order of General Straubenzee, passed through the North Gate and drove the enemy back. Occasional guns were fired from the forts outside the walls, but the rocket party of the *Cruiser* soon set on fire the buildings round

THE CAPTURE OF CANTON.
We congratulate ourselves on being able to present our readers thus early with some careful sketches from that new "seat of war," Canton. For these sketches we are indebted to a gentleman on the staff of the French Admiral.

The capture of Fort Lin was one of the first operations of the day, though not the most formidable. It is a circular tower, built of stone; it had twelve guns in position, which Admiral Seymour himself informs us were badly appointed, and of small calibre. Our forces first advanced in the direction of the fort, which was taken possession of by detachments of the French brigade and 59th Regiment, the enemy retiring as these troops advanced. When the operations of the day were concluded, the army bivouacked round this fort, "the ground being admirably adapted for an encampment, being honeycombed for miles by a vast assemblage of graves—the 'criminals' cemetery'—the spaces between the mounds affording excellent shelter." The head-quarters for the night were in a Buddhist temple to the rear of Lin's Fort. While *en bivouac* at this place, the Allied Commanders had an opportunity of viewing the east wall, which it was resolved to take by escalade the following morning at nine o'clock, to facilitate which operation a brisk enfilading fire was kept up along the wall—up to the hour named for the escalade—from French and English gunboats. "Then," says Admiral Seymour, "the fire from the walls having been kept in check by howitzers and the rifles of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, about half-past eight the French Brigade, headed by its gallant Admiral, dashed forward with the scaling ladders. Our own ladders were at once in hand, and with a short run, planted against the wall, and amidst the hearty cheers of the whole army the French and English colours were floating over the battlements of Canton. Division after division rapidly clambered up the ladders, and advanced along the wall to the northward, taking gate after gate (which form the principal defences of the city) in rapid succession; the enemy, completely surprised and confounded at the impetuosity of the attack, offering but trifling opposition. Before ten o'clock the flags of the Allied Powers floated over the five-storeyed pagoda, the city heights, including two forts mounted with heavy guns, and the other defences of the city as far as the North Gate. Our mode and plan of attack may be considered as a complete surprise, and may account for the limited loss which attended our operations. The authorities evidently expected we should first attack Gough's Heights and the defences outside the city, considering the height of their wall a sufficient security against an attack by escalade. The main body of their troops were in that quarter, and the guns on the city heights, in newly-constructed forts, bore in the same direction.

"At the North Gate the enemy appeared inclined to make a stand. Captain Key, with one-half of the 2nd Division, advanced and took up



EAST GATE.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARTILLERY.

FRENCH TROOPS.

ENGLISH MORTARS BOMBARDING FORT GOUGH.

GRAND PAGODA.

NORTH-EAST GATE.

FORT GOUGH.

ENGLISH TROOPS.

NORTH-EAST GATE.



THE SIEGE OF LUCKNOW. THE HEAD OF THE RELIEVING FORCE ADVANCING AT THE BAILEY GUARD.

LUCKNOW DURING THE SIEGE.

FUTURE historians will have difficulty enough to explain the causes of the Indian revolt, and to extricate from the contradictions and confusion with which the matter is entangled, the great lesson which such events must always contain. We ourselves are certainly more alarmed than enlightened by our Indian experiences in 1857; and while we suffer by the calamity, our successors are not likely to discover in it the compensations with which misfortune comes rarely unattended. But those writers yet unknown will find not a little comfort in the fact, that while it is hard to point a moral, easy is it to adorn the tale. The whole action of the drama, with its extraordinary unities of time, limit, and conduct is clear; and so distinctly is it defined and so strongly coloured—so replete is it with human interest, and so illustrative of human nature in its noblest and most brutal aspects—that no Prescott or Macaulay will be necessary to make the story famous for hundreds of years to come.

Already we have information more methodical and authoritative than that which the meditations of Anglo-Indians, Indo-Britons, and other complete letter-writers, have hitherto been employed upon. By the very mail which brought us assured intelligence that the garrison of Lucknow was at length delivered out of that accursed city, came the MSS. of two or three narratives of the siege, and here they lie in proper print before us.* From these alone a vivid and complete picture of the heroism, the sufferings, and the daily life of the beleaguered garrison, is presented. Indeed, it is strange how identical are the impressions which these books give one, not only as to the lines of the picture, but as to the tone and very atmosphere of the scene. If one book is more complete than another, or the writer more apt, there are no differences in the matter, nor in the ideas and suggestions they convey. This makes the story of the siege and relief of Lucknow, so far as we have it, most satisfactory reading to the mere reader; and indeed, everything considered, to all men; for if no doubt is left as to the sufferings of our fellow-countrymen, we are equally assured of their patience, their endurance, their valour—their honour in all kinds. And there are several heroes in the story so complete that their valets revered them; they were heroes even to their own cook-boys.

We see the grand, lazy, luxurious life of British officers and gentlemen at Lucknow before the mutiny appeared; the superior indifference with which the first mutterings of the storm were heard in that city; the sleepy surprise in which, as the hubbub increased, our countrymen got out of bed, as it were, and looked for their pistols; and then, when fairly aroused, how rapidly and quickly each lazy one took his place as an unconquerable soldier under the eyes of the best British gentleman in India. To this man (Henry Lawrence by name) nothing that we have said about laziness or luxury applies—still less even that degree of surprise at the mutiny, or unbelief in its proportions, which seems to have belonged to everybody else in Lucknow at the first outbreak. No fear of exhibiting alarm before "natives" deterred this brave, and wise, and pious gentleman from preparing to-day for the desperate struggle he foresaw was to begin to-morrow; and we remark in every account of the siege that has yet been committed to paper, such a degree of gratitude and admiration for the measures Sir Henry Lawrence then took, that we suspect they were looked upon as rather absurd than otherwise at the time.

However, this is certain—that whether we read the letters of the brave Private Jones to his mother in London, or whether we take the narratives of Captain Anderson, Mr. Rees, or the Staff Officer, one story is told in one phrase: Lawrence saved the Residency, with its "treasure in women and children;" and, more, if that garrison had fallen into the hands of the rebels, it is highly probable that the re-capture of Delhi, for instance, would have gone for very little at present. Hear what Mr. Rees says, speaking of a time before the garrison had occasion to exchange a shot with the mutineers, or indeed before there were many mutineers in the neighbourhood to shoot at:—

"Few of us expected that we should ever be besieged ourselves, and none imagined a siege could have been so protracted. Even Sir Henry himself did not think so; (1) yet, to provide against all contingencies, like a wise and prudent general, he ordered immense supplies of wheat, corn, and all sorts of provisions into the Residency and Mueche Bhawan. This eventually saved our lives. But for his prescience, Lucknow would have been lost, and we should have been starved to death, or massacred long before this."

"The Residency itself was crowded with ladies, women, and children, and every house and out-house was occupied. Preparations for defence were continued, and thousands of coolies were employed at the batteries, stockades, and trenches, which we were everywhere completing. We buried the treasure and ammunition, of which fortunately we had a large supply, and brought together as many guns as we could collect. The Residency and Mueche Bhawan presented most animated scenes. There were soldiers, sepoy, prisoners in irons, men, women, and children, hundreds of servants, respectable natives in their carriages, coolies carrying weights, heavy cannons, field-pieces, carts, elephants, camels, bullocks, horses, all moving about hither and thither, and continual bustle and noise were kept up from morning to night. Tents were pitched; and in fact there was scarcely a corner which was not in some way occupied and turned to account."

"Sir Henry Lawrence was indefatigable, and seemed almost never to sleep. Often would he saunter out in disguise, and visit the most frequented parts of the native town, to make personal observations, and see how his orders were carried out. He several times had a thin bedding spread out under the guns at the Bailey-guard Gate, and retired there among the artillerymen, not to sleep, but to plan and meditate undisturbed. He appeared to be ubiquitous, and to be seen everywhere. All loved and respected the old gentleman, and indeed every one had cause, for none was too lowly for his notice, and no duty was too uninteresting for him. On Sir Henry removing the headquarters of his office from cantonments into the Residency he was loudly cheered by the men. 'Long live Sir Henry! long live Sir Henry!' resounded from all sides, and a long and loud 'hurrah' continued as long as he was visible. One poor man vociferated so loudly that he burst a blood-vessel; a heavy price for a little enthusiasm."

"Sir Henry Lawrence had received from Calcutta, some time before the siege, plenary powers to use his own discretion with regard to Oude. He might, so it was stated, either keep the country or temporarily evacuate it. He unhesitatingly rejected the latter alternative; that we are still in possession of a portion in Oude, and are in a fair way of retaking what we have lost, is entirely owing to Sir Henry."

But the unhappy battle of Chinhut, in which Lawrence was betrayed by some of these "dear children," the sepoys, and from which he had to retreat with a loss of 118 English officers and men killed and missing out of 600 (the entire European force), with fifty-four wounded, to say nothing of natives (those who remained faithful), altered the aspect of affairs. Then, immediately and in earnest, commenced the siege of Lucknow. We are sorry we cannot make room for Mr. Rees's account of this unhappy affair. The retreat was terrible.

"Many poor fellows, desperately wounded and unable to rise, whom no one could or would assist, were seen fighting like bull-dogs held at bay, till they at last fell dead. Parched with thirst, and weak from exertion and fatigue, under the intense heat of a June sun, numbers fell down exhausted, and were cut up by the enemy's cavalry. Others fell, struck by apoplexy. None asked for mercy, for none expected it. Mr. Darby in vain called out to the men to stop for God's sake, and to remember Waterloo and Vimiera. None heeded him; and Lieutenant Webb, his face black with gunpowder, and the peak of his cap shot off, made himself hoarse with shouting to the men to halt. The officers of the 32nd Regiment spared no exertions to retrieve the day; but with a few hundred men against myriads, what chance had they, even if the soldiers had not been half dead with exhaustion?"

"Sir Henry Lawrence was seen in the most exposed parts of the field, riding from one part of it to another, amidst a terrific fire of grape, round shot, and musketry, which made us lose men at every step. When near the Kokraul Bridge, he wrung his hands in the greatest agony of mind, and forgetful of himself, thought only of his poor soldiers. 'My God! my God!' he was heard to say, 'and I brought them to this!' So confident he had been of success that he had ordered his carriage to meet him half-way. The horses were of course taken out to escape with, but the carriage was left sticking in the sand."

Then, as we have already said, commenced the siege, in the early days of which Lawrence was killed—he was buried without the privilege of a grave to himself, before nine-tenths of the garrison knew what

a calamity had befallen them—and us all. The siege itself is one unvarying story of cheerful endurance under privations the most severe, amidst scenes the most heartrending, hopeless and disgusting. Thousands of cannon-shot rain into the Residency, till even the hospital is riddled down to its lower storey, and men are killed while attending the wounded. Show your head in the streets, and you are a dead man; shoot your enemy if you can, but don't venture to look through your loophole to see if he is hit, or a bullet may whistle into your brain. The heat is excessive; dead horses and dogs lie at your doors, and dead sepoys rot injuriously within forty yards of the intrenchment; and to the worst plagues of war everywhere, add the plagues of Egypt—boils and flies—"cold flies!" says one writer.

"The mass of putrid matter that was allowed to accumulate, the rains, the commissariat stores, the hospital, had attracted these insects in incredible numbers. They swarmed in millions, and though we blew daily some hundreds of thousands into the air, this seemed to make no diminution in their numbers—the ground was still black with them, and the tables were literally covered with these cursed flies. We could not sleep in the day on account of them: we could scarcely eat."

Fatigue—in daily, nightly vigilance and hard fighting, in digging trenches, in countermine, in dragging dead horses from under the walls of the various stations, and burying them, in attendance upon the wounded (though indeed, when once a man was hit, the tedium of convalescence was almost always spared him)—this was a light misery; there were also fever, cholera, smallpox, and hunger. The poor little children suffered dreadfully from these latter woes. The diary of the Staff Officer is absolutely monotonous from the frequency of such entries as these:—"Several children lately died—privation chief cause." "Many deaths among the children, and sickness on the increase." "Several deaths among the children, who were all greatly emaciated." "Great mortality among the children, who fade away rapidly for want of proper food." And presently we come to this entry:—"For the third time since the siege, there was no funeral to-day" (Sept. 9).

As for the women, they behaved as our women always do in such circumstances—suffered: and became to all about them slaves and angels in one. How cruelly the hard scant fare and the loss of so many decencies must have told upon them, as well as upon the overworked garrison, to say nothing of the anxiety and the prospect of a massacre, we can all imagine. Coarse flour, or wheat to be ground according as means permitted, salt, lentils, a little piece of bad beef, with an equal quantity of bone—this was the garrison fare, for men, women, and children alike. Any supplies beyond these were eagerly bought at enormous prices. In September a gentleman gave forty rupees (£2) for a small fowl for his wife, who was sick. Nine pounds were given for a ham; a bottle of brandy cost a guinea; and, after all, people who had money enough were famishing, the supplies were so few. "On one occasion," says Mr. Rees, "I went to see a friend, whom I did not find at home. He had just finished his breakfast, of which a solitary bone remained as evidence on his plate. Hunger was imperative; and I actually took a well-gnawed bone up, and picked it clean afterwards."

Owing, too, to the sudden necessity for blowing up the Mueche Bhawan, many of the officers began the siege with no clothes save those they stood in. These rapidly wore out; and at length few officers had a rag of military uniform, and little if any clothing at all. Many performed their duties in shirt, trousers, and slippers only. Says the Staff Officer—"One gallant civilian having found an old billiard cloth, contrived to make himself a kind of loose coat of it; while an officer wore a shirt made out of a floor-cloth." It was about this time—the middle of September—that some fastidious person bought at auction five old flannel shirts for £11 4s.

These were the circumstances under which 400 or 500 Englishmen, aided by two or three companies of Sikhs and faithful sepoys, kept at bay a whole city full of desperate ruffians, abundantly supplied with ammunition, and it would seem, well officered. Mr. Rees says:—

"It is also probable that their artillery was commanded by European officers. One of these was seen several times laying a gun and giving orders, apparently like one having authority. From the description given me, it is not unlikely that it was either Captain Savory or Captain Rotton, who had both remained in the city, and during the disturbances never came near the Residency. Their character may well make them suspected of such treachery. They had both adopted native habits, costumes, and ideas, and had always kept aloof from European society. The former was a retired Company's officer, an Englishman, who had for many years received the pension of a captain. The latter was a man born in Lucknow, whose daughters were married to Mussulmans, and whose sons served as native officers or troopers in the King's army. He himself commanded a portion of the ex-King's artillery. Both these were said to have adopted the Mahometan faith. A Frenchman named Leblond, as great a villain as ever breathed, also an apostate, probably likewise joined the insurgents; and a young man, whose name I do not wish to mention, on account of his family, was most probably the person who had commanded the enemy's cavalry at Chinhut. . . . But it is also likely that some Russian officer had entered the army of the insurgents. One of them, who at first had given himself out as a Siberian refugee, and afterwards contradicted himself on cross-examination, was actually made a prisoner before the mutiny, but, strange to say, was released on the occurrence of the outbreak."

Under some villain's direction—whether a brown villain or a white one—the batteries of the rebels were pushed within a few yards of our defences; their shot rendered almost every house untenable; and though their attacks were constantly repelled, they as constantly returned to the assault a few hours after. False alarms added to the fatigues of the wretched garrison, for the rebels often indulged in pretended night attacks; these, of course, were little less distressing to our soldiery than actual conflicts, though much more agreeable to the other party.

The enemy seem to have trusted very greatly in mining; and all accounts agree that they laboured in this way most perseveringly. But their attempts were all frustrated. Many as they were, they did not mine faster than our soldiers countermined. "Listening galleries" were sunk; in which our people marked the approach of the enemy's Sappers, and by which we were enabled on several occasions not only to frustrate their labours, but to fall upon them in their mines, or blow them up with their own powder.

But what vigilance, what skill, energy, and patience did all this require! Nothing remained to add to the distresses of the position, but disappointed expectations of relief—that hope deferred which maketh the heart sick. It was added. About the end of July news came that reinforcements were on the way. A few days after, the firing of cannon was heard in the direction of Cawnpore. Relief had surely arrived. "We all think so, and are frantic with joy; we shake hands with each other, as if our deliverance were already at hand, and run to the tops of houses, regardless of danger, to see them coming." However, the night falls, and yet no reinforcements; little sleep get the garrison that night, and in the morning they discover that the insurgents had simply been firing a grand salute for their own encouragement.

We need not follow the story to the end. Relief came at length with Havelock; and then there was another dreary period of suspense, terminated by the arrival of Sir Colin Campbell. His glorious and most bloody fight to the Bailey Guard (as the Residency was called by the insurgents) has been too recently described to be repeated here. Mr. Rees furnishes us with a very graphic picture of the struggle, and of the welcome which the relieving force received when at length they found themselves in the Residency. It was not a dignified entry. "On we went," says one of the combatants, "peppered from all sides, when suddenly we found ourselves opposite to a large gateway, with folding doors, completely riddled with round shot and musket-balls, the entrance to a large enclosure. At the side of this was a small doorway, half-blocked up by a small mud wall, and the Europeans and Sikhs were struggling to get through while the bullets were whistling about them. I could not think what was up, and why we should be going in there, but after forcing my way up to the door, and getting my head and shoulders over the wall, I found myself being pulled over by a great unwashed, hairy creature, who set me on my legs, and patted me on my back, and to my astonishment I found myself in the long looked-for Bailey Guard"—where we conclude.

EARTHQUAKE AT CORINTH.

ON Sunday, February 21, about eleven o'clock at night, Corinth was visited with an earthquake that destroyed nearly every house in the city, and was further afflicted by the outbreak of a fire, which consumed a large amount of property. The shock of the earthquake was felt in all the surrounding villages. Kalimachi, the place of embarkation for Athens, has suffered in like manner, as well as places of less note situated on the road to Argos. Eighteen persons lost their lives, and about sixty were wounded, a greater number than suffered on former similar occasions. This event has involved the inhabitants in much distress. In addition to their usual poverty, they are not only exposed to the horrors of starvation, but suffer much from the unusual severity of the weather, the thermometer often falling to 20 Fahr., an uncommon circumstance in that quarter of Greece. The central government have sent tents to the unfortunate victims of the calamity, and also rendered them pecuniary assistance, but there is reason to fear many will perish from cold and hunger.

The pillars of the Temple of Minerva Colchiaeus have been injured. This was one of the earliest specimens of Doric architecture in Greece. One was split from top to bottom, and others defaced.

The duration of the shock was nine seconds, and its first movement was in a vertical and then in a horizontal direction. Its centre seemed to have been at the isthmus, extending north and south, and then east and west. Neither Costizza nor Lutraki have suffered. The vibration was felt at Athens, but did no injury to life or property. The oscillations at Corinth continue, but no further shock has occurred there.

THE NEW FRENCH PASSPORT REGULATIONS.—The following official notice appears in the "Moniteur":—"Travellers coming from abroad into France must, for each journey, cause their passports to be visited by a diplomatic agent or French consul. In order that no fresh expense may be incurred by such travellers through this obligation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has just decided that the fee charged for the visa shall only be required on the first journey, and that all the visas required in the course of the year, for which period the passport is valid, shall be delivered gratis. It should be remarked, on this occasion, that the regulations now in force allow the diplomatic and consular offices to deliver gratis travelling licences to poor persons, and to grant them at a reduced scale to those individuals to whom the payment of the full charge would be too onerous."

ANOTHER "SALETTE" MIRACLE.—A French journal says:—"Considerable agitation has been of late manifested in the neighbourhood of Lourdes (Hautes-Pyrénées), by a visit which a young girl of fourteen, named Bernadette Savi, the daughter of a day-labourer, pays every morning early to a grotto in which springs forth a gush of water forming a rivulet, not far from the banks of the Garonne. This girl affirms that the Virgin Mary has appeared to her, and ordered that she should every morning for a fortnight pray in the grotto during the space of half an hour. A vast number of persons accompany her in her visits, believing fully in the truth of her assertion. At first, when she kneels down, she is represented as being pale, and almost convulsed; but as her communication with the Virgin proceeds, her features become calm and radiant. We understand that not less than 5,000 persons are present now each morning near the grotto, and that the authorities are beginning to disapprove of such assemblages."

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.—A Piedmontese, named Bozzo, a ticket-porter at Lyons, had a grudge against another porter (named La Chapelle), which did not prevent his sending a box directed to Chapelle to the latter's lodgings. Chapelle and his wife, fancying that the box contained presents for their children, hastened to open it; but no sooner was the key which was fastened outside by a string put into the keyhole, than the box burst with a loud explosion, and one of the children was wounded in the face. Bozzo had placed in the box two loaded pistols, the triggers of which he had tied to the bolt of the lock, calculating that as soon as it was turned both would go off. One only did go off in point of fact, and fortunately the wound received by the child were not serious. Bozzo was found guilty, and sentenced to hard labour for life.

M. EMILE OLLIVIER has gained a great cause against M. Berryer. The Community of the Ladies of Picpus claimed to be entitled to read the whole of the Marquis de Guerry's property, as a member of the sisterhood. The Imperial Court of Paris, overruling the judgment of the Tribunal of the First Instance, has ordered the community to refund the sum of 47,000 francs.

IRELAND.

ELECTIONEERING CONSPIRACY.—At the general election which took place last March, the candidates for Sligo were Mr. Wynne and Mr. J. P. Somers. The scenes enacted at the polling were similar to those performed in the County of Mayo. Electors were forcibly carried off who were suspected of being favourable to Mr. Wynne. Others were incapacitated from recording their votes for him by the outrages perpetrated upon them by the mob in the interest of Somers. Notwithstanding all this, Mr. Wynne had a majority of votes, but on the book being made up, it was found that Mr. Somers had a majority of six. On inquiry, it was discovered that the Mayor and his deputies and poll clerks had conspired to omit to record the names of persons who had voted for Mr. Wynne, while others who had voted for him were entered as having declared for Somers. The delinquents have been tried for this offence, and are to be—lightly—punished. The Mayor is to pay a fine of £50, or to be imprisoned for one month; Connellan and Foley, his deputies, to be imprisoned for one month, and pay a fine of £20 each; Ward and Bruen, the poll clerks, are to be sent to jail for two months.

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—The emigration from Ireland now averages somewhat under 100,000 a-year. In 1855 it was 91,000, in 1853 it was 92,000. The proportion from the different provinces is maintained with singular exactness. In both years the number from Ulster was 31,000, and that from Munster 34,000. Of the numbers from Leinster, the counties which furnish the greatest proportion are Dublin and Kilkenny. From the county of Cork the emigration is very large, even in proportion to its size. In 1856 the numbers thence exceeded those of the whole of Ulster, and were double as great as the entire of the emigrants from Connaught.

THE IRISH COURT.—It is officially announced that the Earl of Eglintoun will hold his first levee on Tuesday, the 16th inst., and a drawing-room on the following evening. The usual ball in honour of St. Patrick will be given in the course of the week after. His Excellency has settled his household as follows:—State Steward, Mr. Gustavus Lambert; Comptroller, Mr. Charles Lindsay; Master of the Horse, Lord Otto Fitzgerald; Chamberlain, Mr. George Bagot; Gentleman Usher, Mr. Frederick Willis; Aides-de-Camp (paid), Colonel Atwell Lake, Colonel Francis Dunne, Captain Hurlbury (Guards), Lieutenant Colonel Oduney; Extra Aides-de-Camp (unpaid), Captain Theissiger, Major Forrester, Colonel North. Colonel Dunne acts as Private Secretary for the present.

SCOTLAND.

SUNDAY TRAINS ON SCOTCH RAILWAYS.—The shareholders of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway, have once more rejected, by a large majority, a motion to stop Sunday trains on the line. An amendment on the motion was proposed by the directors and adopted, to the effect that at the next half-yearly meeting they should take the sense of the shareholders on the subject, the directors being authorised to issue proxies to all of them previous to the meeting.

BANKRUPTCY AND DISAPPEARANCE.—In Milnathort, and the county of Kinross generally, there has been quite a ferment on account of the bankruptcy and disappearance of a manufacturer who had long held a very respectable place among the inhabitants. He was an elder and treasurer of one of the churches. A short time ago he was presented with a gold watch as a token of respect. For a few days, he went about the place to all appearance a happy man—one whom his neighbours delighted to honour. Exactly a week after he received the present, he left the town; four days after weavers became clamorous for their pay, and no money was to be had. Next day a letter from him to one of his creditors opened people's eyes—£10,000 due to creditors and no assets to speak of.

NEW BATTERIES AT ABERDEEN.—The Ordnance department are now engaged in erecting three batteries for the defence of the port and city of Aberdeen. Arrangements are also in progress for the extension of the barracks in the city, and ground has been leased from the corporation for rifle practice.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—The total number of schools receiving Government aid in Scotland in 1855 was 907; of these 318 were of the Free Church, 251 belonged to the Established Church, 158 were parochial schools, 100 schools without any religious denomination, 67 belonged to the Episcopalians, and 21 to Romanists. The sums given in different years to different schools were very various, ranging from several thousand pounds to a few shillings a-year. The largest sum given was £2,095 in 1856, and the smallest 8s. 8d., in the same year. In a number of cases, rural schools received small sums of £1, £2, and £3, though the average of the total grant given to all the schools was between £5 and £60 for each. The total grant in aid of education in Scotland in 1856 was hardly equal to one halfpenny per head on the whole population.

* "A Personal Narrative of the Siege of Lucknow." By L. R. Ruutz Rees, one of the surviving defenders. London: Longman. "The Defence of Lucknow; a Diary." By a Staff Officer. London: Smith, Elder, & Co. "A Personal Narrative of the Siege of Lucknow." By Captain R. P. Anderson, 25th N.I. Thacker and Co.

THE PROVINCES.

SUSPECTED MURDER.—In 1832 there was a shoemaker living at Aulourn, named Pearson. In that year the Upper Witham was cleansed out, and whilst the workmen were engaged upon the work Pearson disappeared. The last known of him was that he left a public-house late at night. Last week some workmen employed at the mouth of the Brant dug out a human skeleton, just below the natural bed, and covered with clay and stones. It is quite clear that if the unfortunate had fallen into the stream and been drowned, the body could not have been covered with clay and stones; and therefore it is assumed that he was buried when the river-bed was dry in 1832. Other circumstances favour the conclusion that the man was murdered; he was, it seems, foolishly fond of exhibiting his money when intoxicated. At the point of the Brant where his body was found there was formerly a house inhabited by a person who bore a bad character, and it is remarkable that in 1832 a skeleton was found in the Brant, near the spot where this second skeleton has been discovered; it was generally supposed to be the body of a packman, who was reported to have been murdered by the occupant of the lonely house.

DESTRUCTION OF WYNNAVY BY FIRE.—The ancient mansion of Sir Watkin W. Wynnavy was entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday morning. Sir Watkin and Lady Wynnavy, accompanied by several friends, had only arrived at Wynnavy the previous day. The flames ascended from the direction of the library, and with such rapidity did they spread that Lady Wynnavy and some other ladies were glad to escape in their night-dresses. A fire-engine was speedily got into play, and the domestics, men and women, headed by the Baronet himself, busied themselves in bearing water from the fishpond. Other fire-engines presently arrived; but the flames, stimulated by a strong wind, raged on, and in the course of a few hours the destruction was complete. The place is a shell, "not an inch of the roof of the mansion remaining, except a small tower and the domestic offices." The entire loss is computed at £70,000, and the Baronet was uninsured, though chairman of a Welsh insurance office.

FAILURE OF WATER.—They are reduced to lamentable straits at Oldham. A great reservoir on the hill sunk during the long drought, until at last "mere dribbles of mud, water, worms, and animalculæ" were vouchsafed to the household once a day. "The cottage floors are unscoured; the washing days are put off, and rosy cheeks are become grim from acquaintance only with dry towels. The fact is, the population has far outgrown the water supply. Nor is there any way of mitigating the present suffering, for the town stands high and dry, three miles away from any river; and they are all at their wits' end."

CRUELTY TRIAL FOR DEER STEALING.—On New Year's day morning, Lord Wharfedale's keepers discovered that a fine buck was missing from the park. A few days after a man named Barker met one of the keepers, and asked why they had not advertised the loss of two deer, as said he, "There are two gone." He proceeded to state that he knew nothing of the affair, except what he had heard; but, if the keepers would go to Woodhead plantation, they would find the bodies of the two deer covered over with leaves. The largest deer, he said, was at bay in the pond for two hours, and could not be got out till a dog took it by the nose and worried it; the small one was caught and had its throat cut near the side of the pond, and both the bodies were lifted over the park wall and carried through the plantation to near a water-rough—a distance of half a mile, and there covered over with leaves. The deer were found as described, and the prisoner was arrested and tried at Sheffield. In his defence it was urged that there was no evidence that he had any share in killing and stealing the deer, and that there was nothing in his statement but what he might have gathered from overhearing in a public-house the conversation of those who committed the offence. The jury, after upwards of an hour's consultation, returned a verdict of not guilty.

BANK FAILURE AT BLANDFORD.—Messrs. Oak and Snow's bank at Blandford, in Dorsetshire, has failed, and so caused great distress. The Salford Memorial Fund was deposited in the bank; as also the savings of many poor people, who had withdrawn them from the savings bank, tempted by the high rate of interest offered by Messrs. Oak and Snow. Mr. Oak was Mayor of Blandford at the time of the failure, and his partner, Mr. Snow, was a member of the Town Council.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOTS.—Our readers will remember the riots which took place at Kidderminster during the last general election, and the cowardly attack which was made upon Mr. Lowe, the successful candidate. On Saturday, the persons charged with the outrage surrendered to take their trial at the Worcester Assizes; but, on pleading guilty, they were bound over in their own recognisances to appear when called upon.

THE UNEMPLOYED OF BIRMINGHAM.—A large meeting of artisans, large numbers of whom are now out of employ in Birmingham, was held on Gosta Green, on Monday. A resolution was passed to the effect that, whilst the meeting were grateful for all acts of private benevolence exerted in their behalf, they felt that the present poor law system was inadequate to meet the social evils of, or elevate those for whom it was intended, and it was their duty to memorialise the government to adopt a comprehensive plan of emigration—the outfit and passage to be provided by the State, and repaid by the settlers. A deputation to wait upon the magistrates, to ascertain the most prudent steps to be taken so obtain immediate relief, was appointed, and the meeting then adjourned.

THE LATE GAROTTE ROBBERY IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—A man named Brennan, said to be a "well-known travelling thief," has been committed for trial charged with committing a garotte robbery upon a Mr. Wainwright in a railway carriage. Mr. Wainwright gave evidence to the effect that, on the night of the robbery, he met at the Hunts Bank Railway Station, in Manchester, a gentleman who owed him between £9 and £10. The gentleman stopped under a lamp-post to pay the money, and at the same time the prisoner passed them. Mr. Wainwright afterwards got into a first-class carriage to proceed to Littleborough. The prisoner got into the same carriage, and when about half-way presented a pistol at Mr. Wainwright's head, and threatened him with instant death if he raised the least alarm. He then seized Mr. Wainwright by the neck, and when that gentleman, who became insensible, recovered, he found that he was alone in the carriage, and that his money and gold watch had been abstracted.

MR. STAPLETON, M.P.—This gentleman has addressed the electors of Berwick on his recent trial in connection with the British Bank Conspiracy. He says that, thinking the honour of a Member of Parliament ought to be most dear to his constituents, he has thought it incumbent to lay before them the observations on his position made by Lord Campbell. He attributes the verdict of guilty against him to invincible prejudice, naturally, perhaps, attaching to the disastrous consequences of the failure of a joint-stock bank.

WRECK OF A BRIG OFF CORTON SANDS.—The Lowestoft life-boat was instrumental, on Thursday week, in rescuing the crew of the brig Osiris, wrecked off Corton Sands. A gale was blowing, the brig was in a perilous position, with only one anchor left, and night approaching. The life-boat, which was towed out by a steam-tug, took out her crew, consisting of six hands, and those left on board by a yawl, which had previously boarded the ship. The brig came on to the beach during the evening.

STATISTICS OF RAILWAY TRAFFIC.—The traffic returns of railways in the United Kingdom for the week ending February 27, amounted to £389,610; and for the corresponding week of last year to £401,530, showing a decrease of £11,920. The decrease on the Eastern Counties Railway amounted to £1,077; on the Great Northern, to £391; on the Great Western, to £302; on the London and North-Western, to £3,724; on the London and Blackwall, to £113; on the London, Brighton, and South Coast, to £1,052; on the London and South-Western, to £364; and on the South-Eastern, to £388; total, £7,811.

PATERNISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—A parliamentary return, just issued, shows the number of paupers in the receipt of relief on the last day of each week of January, 1857 and 1858. There is an increase this year on each week—viz., of 56,673 the first week; 65,389 the second week; 65,435 the third week; 67,308 the fourth week; and 56,165 the fifth week. On the last day of the fifth week of last January, the paupers relieved in England and Wales were 139,773 in-door and 837,000 out-door, making a total of 976,773. The metropolitan shows a decrease of pauperism each week. The numbers in receipt of relief on the last day of the fifth week of January, this year, were 8,119 less than on the corresponding day in 1857. The great increase is in the North-Western districts, consisting of the union-counties of Chester and Lancaster.

WHOLESALE INFANTICIDE.—Information was received at the police-stations on Wednesday that a male infant had been found murdered by strangulation in Hyde Park, and two others in Lambeth. Also a female infant on the beach at Hastings: this child had been beaten on the head by some blunt instrument, and the skull knocked in. Also a male child at Burnley, by cutting its throat, the body being thrown into the canal, with a stone tied round its neck. Another, a female child, was found strangled at Sherburn; and a seventh destroyed in a similar manner at Clifden.

PENAL SERVITUDE SENTENCES.—A letter from the Home-office gives the proportion of sentences of penal servitude which "may be remitted in case of good conduct" on the part of persons condemned to that punishment. In a sentence of three years, one-sixth, or six months; four years, one-fifth; five years, the same; six years and up to twelve, one-fourth; and years may be remitted by good conduct, or that a person sentenced to fifteen years may, by good conduct, be liberated at the expiration of ten. Sentences for life will be dealt with according to the special circumstances of each case, but in some instances the crimes may be of so aggravated a nature as to exempt the criminal from the operation of the ordinary rule.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

The recent heavy weather has furnished a sad addition to Lloyd's disaster list.

The brig Nairns, of South Shields, was lost on the Scotch coast, and with her, it was supposed, all her crew went down. Some days after the wreck, however, two of the crew made their appearance in Shields, to the astonishment and delight of the town. These two persons are Richard Harrison, one of the sons of the owner, and the cabin-boy, William Rood. Harrison's narrative of the loss of the vessel is very affecting:—"The Nairns left the Tyne on Sunday morning (February 28th) coal laden, for Southampton—several other vessels sailing with her. They had got as far as Whitby, Roads for shelter. About two o'clock on Monday afternoon the gale was very violent, a fearful sea was running, and on sounding the pumps it was discovered by the crew of the Nairns that she had five feet of water in her hold, and that the pumps were choking. It was determined to abandon the vessel, and a Scotch schooner, the Duke of Buccleuch, coming in sight, she was hailed, and hove to. The men belonging to the brig then got the skiff out, and having attached a line to her, five of them got into the skiff, and pulled safely on board the schooner. In endeavouring to haul the skiff back by the line, a sea swamped it, and it sank. The master of the schooner then got his boat out, and three of the Nairns' men manned it, and returned to rescue their 'mates'; but while half-way between the vessels, a huge sea broke over the boat and sank it. No help could be afforded, and the three men were drowned in the presence of their ship-mates. There were no more boats on board the schooner, and as the master and two hands were all that remained on board the brig, they could not get the long-boat out, and all hope of rescue had to be abandoned. The master him he would try to run his vessel ashore, and the vessels parted. The Nairns then attempted to get under the lee of the Coguet, but failed to do so, and the vessel came ashore the same night at Amble, and the three poor fellows left on board perished. The schooner proceeded to Inverkeithing, where the rescued seaman and lad were landed, and safely forwarded to their homes by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

At daybreak on Saturday morning a large schooner was observed on the Goodwin Sands by the Deal luggers cruising in the Downs. She had apparently no one on board, and nothing has been heard of the crew. It is very stormy, the wind blowing strong.

The gales have occasioned considerable mischief to the coasters on the east coast, and a large fleet of disabled vessels, some with their decks swept, and others with loss of both anchors and chain, put into Grimsby. A quantity of wreck and lumber, and a mainbeam with the figures 93601 X 930—11J was towed to Lowestoft. The Swedish schooner, Marie Mogense, from the Baltic to London, was wrecked in a heavy snow squall off Aldborough, but happily the crew were preserved.

The stern of a brig, with "Shire of Banff" upon it, a new boat, and some deck plants and bulwarks, were washed ashore near North Sunderland. On the following day, some broken masts, some seamen's clothing off the coast; a chest was also picked up, and in it were letters stating that Captain Cronies had been requested to join the Shire at Aberdeen, on the 29th of January.

Along the Cornish coast the weather was also severe. The Oldenburg ship Northern Empire, from Callao for London, went on the rocks near Falmouth, involving a loss of upwards of £60,000. She had a cargo of more than 2,000 tons of guano. From Cardiff and other ports on the Welsh coast we hear that the wind on Thursday week blew a terrific gale from the north, causing several disasters.

The sloop James Holmes, from Ireland to the Isle of Man, was on Sunday morning driven on the Rhyl coast, to which the crew were strangers. The crew got into a boat and reached the shore in safety. The gale moderated considerably by 10.30 a.m., and six individuals, fishermen for the most part, went out to bring the vessel into port. Three got on board, but before the rest could follow, their boat became water-logged, and they returned to the shore to bale her out; but in consequence of the wind again rising, with a strong tide against them, they were unable to return to the ship. The three men on board had in the meantime got the vessel aloft, anchor ahead, with fifteen or twenty fathoms of chain. They then kept the pump engaged, and were gaining rapidly on the water; but unfortunately, in the midst of their labour, the chain broke, and the ballast shifted to the starboard side. They then saw their peril, and put up a signal for assistance. The poor men were driven into the rigging for safety, the sea washing continually and terrifically over them even there. The lifeboat was launched. The vessel was now on her beam-ends, and scores of anxious spectators were on the shore, momentarily expecting she would turn completely over. The sea was terrible. The lifeboat struggled on, and the sloop split in two just as the three men stepped into the lifeboat; and in less than five minutes afterwards the vessel was completely shattered to pieces and submerged, mast and all.

A fatal loss happened on Thursday week, near Queenstown. A fine ship, called the Atlas, from St. John's, with oil, &c., drove from her anchors, went ashore between Corkhead and Ringabella, and became a total wreck, two of the crew perishing. Next night, a Greek brig and the Margaret Magee, from Belfast, were driven ashore to the southern end of the harbour of Ayr; and the Foyle schooner, from Belfast, shared a similar fate near Troon. Three of the hands of the Greek brig swam off to the shore—two succeeded in the attempt; the rest of the crew were afterwards taken from the rigging.

A SHIP STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.—Her Majesty's ship, Shannon, fifty guns (under the command of Captain, now Sir William Peel), was ordered out in the spring of last year to join the force in China. During the voyage out, and when about ninety miles to the south-west of Java, the vessel was overtaken in one of those terrible thunderstorms so prevalent in those latitudes. The log describes the approach of the storm at 4.50 p.m. in streams of vivid lightning, with deafening thunder, rain, and hail, the ship being driven before the storm. A few minutes after, what appeared to be an immense ball of fire covered the main-topgallant mast, whence it seemed to run up the royal pole and explode in the air with a loud shock, filling the surrounding space with bright sparks of electrical light, which seemed to be driven rapidly to leeward by the wind. At 5.15 the ship was struck a second time on the mainmast by "an apparently immense mass of lightning," and the foretopmast was lowered before the violent gust of wind with which this second shock was attended. At 5.30 another very heavy discharge of lightning fell on the mainmast, and from this time to 6 p.m. the ship was entirely enveloped in sharp forked lightning, accompanied by incessant peals of thunder. At 8.10 they sheeted home the maintopmast, and at 9.30 set the foresail; a confused sea with long heavy rollers from the W.N.W. followed this terrible display of atmospheric electricity. On the next day the ship's course was altered, and the masts and rigging carefully overhauled, but no injury was found to have been sustained to either, nor do any of the men either below aloft appear to have been hurt. The lightning conductors invented by Snowe Harris were in use on this, as in all her Majesty's ships.

WRECK OF A FRENCH VESSEL ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.—On Sunday week, during a heavy gale from the east, and amidst snow and sleet, a small French vessel, bound from Dunkirk to London, struck upon the sands and went down. The captain and crew were just able to reach the punt, and in this small and frail boat drifted off and were enabled to reach Dover, where they were landed near midnight, in a state of great exhaustion.

OUR DEFENCES.—The steam fleet in reserve at Portsmouth is getting ready for equipment at the shortest notice. The ships composing it, especially the line-of-battle ships, are tried almost daily, and the staff of the steam reserve are indefatigably employed in getting the ships' machinery into reliable working order. The Duke of Wellington, Caesar, Victor Emmanuel, and Algiers, are the most forward, and are expected to be the next large ships commissioned. The gunboats at Haslar are also being overhauled.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.—A letter from St. Petersburg of the 18th ult., in the "Débats," says:—"It is well known that Admiral Putiatine, who commands the Russian squadron in China, had received positive instructions to observe the greatest circumspection and to carefully avoid everything which might disturb the friendly relations which for the last two centuries Russia has kept up at Peking through the medium of the ecclesiastical mission in that capital. Notwithstanding all the diplomatic skill and prudence displayed by the Admiral, he has not been able to put himself in relation with the Court of Peking, as the mandarin at Shanghai positively refused to allow him or any of his officers to land. The Admiral therefore returned with his frigate to Hong-kong, where he observes the strictest neutrality, watching the proceedings of the French and English in China. It was at first difficult to account for this change in the feelings of the Chinese, but the last despatches from the Admiral clear up the mystery by stating that the jealousy of the mandarins has been excited by the military and naval establishments of the Russians on the Amoor, and that the Chinese intended to adopt hostile measures in consequence. It was probably with a view to devastate the Russian establishments on the Amoor that the mandarin who commands the two great provinces in the north of China has suddenly attacked the Russian advanced posts, and compelled them to make a retreat for more than thirty leagues along the banks of the river, and burnt or destroyed all the establishments. It appears that this attack of the Chinese is to be attributed to the attempts made by the commandants of the advanced posts to take possession of an extent of 2,000 square leagues of forests and plains which the Russians are desirous of annexing to their possessions."

THE REELECTIONS.

LORD STANLEY, Mr. Disraeli, Sir John Pakington, and those other members of the new Ministry whose seats in the House of Commons were made vacant by their acceptance of office, have all been duly re-elected.

There was little remarkable in the election speeches. In his address, Lord Stanley attributed the mutiny to many causes—the annexation of Oude, the inquiry into land-titles, the defective discipline; but said that, in considering these causes, we are apt to allow too little for those mysterious panics, those mental epidemics, which in all ages have prevailed among an untamed people. As to the future administration of India, he was one of those who in 1853 were for deferring legislation, but he was also one who voted for the transfer of authority from the Company to the Crown. He expressed himself favourable to Parliamentary Reform, but asked for time, and distinctly said he would vote against any attempt to consider in a fragmentary and partial way a question which, to be dealt with effectually, should be dealt with as a whole.

In his treatment of the French question, Lord Stanley made a statement somewhat different from the statement made by Lord Derby:—"We are in no sense pledged to the bill brought forward by Lord Palmerston, and with that bill we have nothing to do. If it should be necessary to frame any measure for the repression of attempts at assassination—which I think, at all events I hope, is unlikely—it will be a measure not founded upon the demands of even a friendly Power, but based solely and simply upon a sense of what is required to make all residents in England equally amenable to the law of England—to that law which, while it affords them the protection and the rights of citizens, expects from them that obedience and duty which citizens are bound to render."

Sir John Pakington spoke very cautiously of reform, echoed the sentiments of Lord Derby on the French question and on the India Bill, and spoke warmly on the subject of education. As regards his own department, the Admiralty, he said—"Never was there a moment when that efficiency was more necessary than now. A considerable portion of our naval strength is now required in China; a further strain upon its resources is also caused by the state of affairs in India; and we must all feel that this is not a time when our navy should be powerless at home. The maxim is true but true, that the best security for peace is to be prepared for war."

Sir Fitzroy Kelly's address was of a remarkably liberal character. He said that so far from desiring to narrow the franchise, of which he had been accused, his policy was all for extension; and whenever the time came to legislate on the subject, no man qualified by education, property, character, or position, to enjoy the franchise should be left without it. "Both in counties and towns I would confer the franchise upon every individual who possesses a sufficient income to at least afford a prospect of his exercising that franchise independently. I should like to confer the franchise also upon every man in Britain who can show that he has enough of knowledge—I don't say first-rate classical education—to ensure an intelligent, right-thinking, reflecting exercise of the franchise. Upon every such man I would confer the elective franchise, although he might not be a freeholder in a county or a £10 householder within a borough." Sir Fitzroy also spoke loudly in favour of law reform.

Mr. Disraeli made a long speech in praise of the Emperor of the French, and of the value of his alliance. Of course the dignity of the country must be maintained; and he truly hoped that no alteration in the law on the Emperor's account would be found necessary; but if it was, then it should be a just and careful alteration. He also repeated Lord Derby's sentiments with regard to the India Bill, and said that the question of Parliamentary reform would be anxiously considered by the new Ministry.

THE NEW JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL.—The Earl of Derby's Government so far at least as the English portion of it is concerned, is now complete. The office of Judge-Advocate, which was offered to Mr. Egerton, M.P. for Macclesfield, and for which Mr. Blackburn, M.P. for Stirlingshire, was also named, has been offered to and accepted by Mr. Mowbray, M.P. for the city of Durham, a practising barrister on the Northern Circuit. The new Judge was educated at Westminster School, whence he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated in 1839. He was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in 1841. The Learned Gentleman belongs to the High Church party, and has for some years past taken an active part in ecclesiastical affairs.

MARRIAGE IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Hitherto on marriages of Roman Catholics it has not been the custom to publish banns, as in Protestant churches, the practice being for the parties to give notice to the registrar of marriages for the district of the intended marriage and the day and place in which it would be celebrated, he then being present at the ceremony, and all publicity being thus avoided. It was determined, however, at a synod held recently at St. Mary's Chapel, Moorfields, to follow the practice of the Established Church. Persons about to be married must give notice to their spiritual director, who, if he sees no obstacle, will cause the banns to be published on three successive Sundays. If both parties reside in one district, of course this would only require to be done in one church, but where they live in different districts it must be done in the church of each.

CURIOSITIES OF REGISTRATION.—All sorts of revelations are unfolded by these registers—some pathetic, some ridiculous. Name after name, alike, down a page of deaths, shows a whole family swept off by some epidemic. Signature after signature of the coroner shows a ravaging colliery explosion or a shipwreck. Here is a poor child, named Alpha Omega; on looking closely, you see that it is illegitimate—First and Last the mother calls it, recording her repentance on the brow of her offspring. No names are too absurd for parents to give their children. Here are innocents stamped for life as Kidnum Toats, Lavender Marjoram, Patient Pie, Tabitha Cumi, Fussy Gotobed, and, strangest of all, here is one called Eli Lama Sabachthani Pressnail! Other parents are more ambitious, and prematurely ennoble their children by designating them Lord, Earl, Princess Charlotte, &c.; whilst, during the Russian war, numbers of poor titles were labelled Malakoff, Sebastopol, Redan, Inkermann, and Balaclava. Florence Nightingale, however, seems to have been the greatest favourite, especially amongst the poor, who have shown their admiration for her by perpetuating the name in their families all over the country. The returns for the last two years would show that Florence has become a much commoner name lately. Some of the marriage registers are curious. The greatest extremes of age—70 and 17—are often found to unite in matrimony. Occasionally we see an entry only half completed, and a note to this effect:—"Ceremony begun, but not finished, the marriage being broken off;" or, "Bridegroom so drunk that the marriage could not proceed." If people's names are any index to their characters, the most extraordinary union of qualities often appears to take place. "Friend" marries a woman named "Amor;" a "Lamb" before marriage becomes a "Lion" after; a "Nightingale" marries a "Partridge;" "Mutton" takes "Ham;" "Salmon," "Codl," &c. Some of the mistakes which the registrars make with the causes of death are rather remarkable. People are discovered to die of the following strange complaints—most of them are probably new to our medical readers:—"Imperfect closure of the foramen," "Turner on the right anse," "Disease of the lever," "Hanged himself in a fit of temperate insanity from excessive drinking," &c.—"Chambers's Journal."

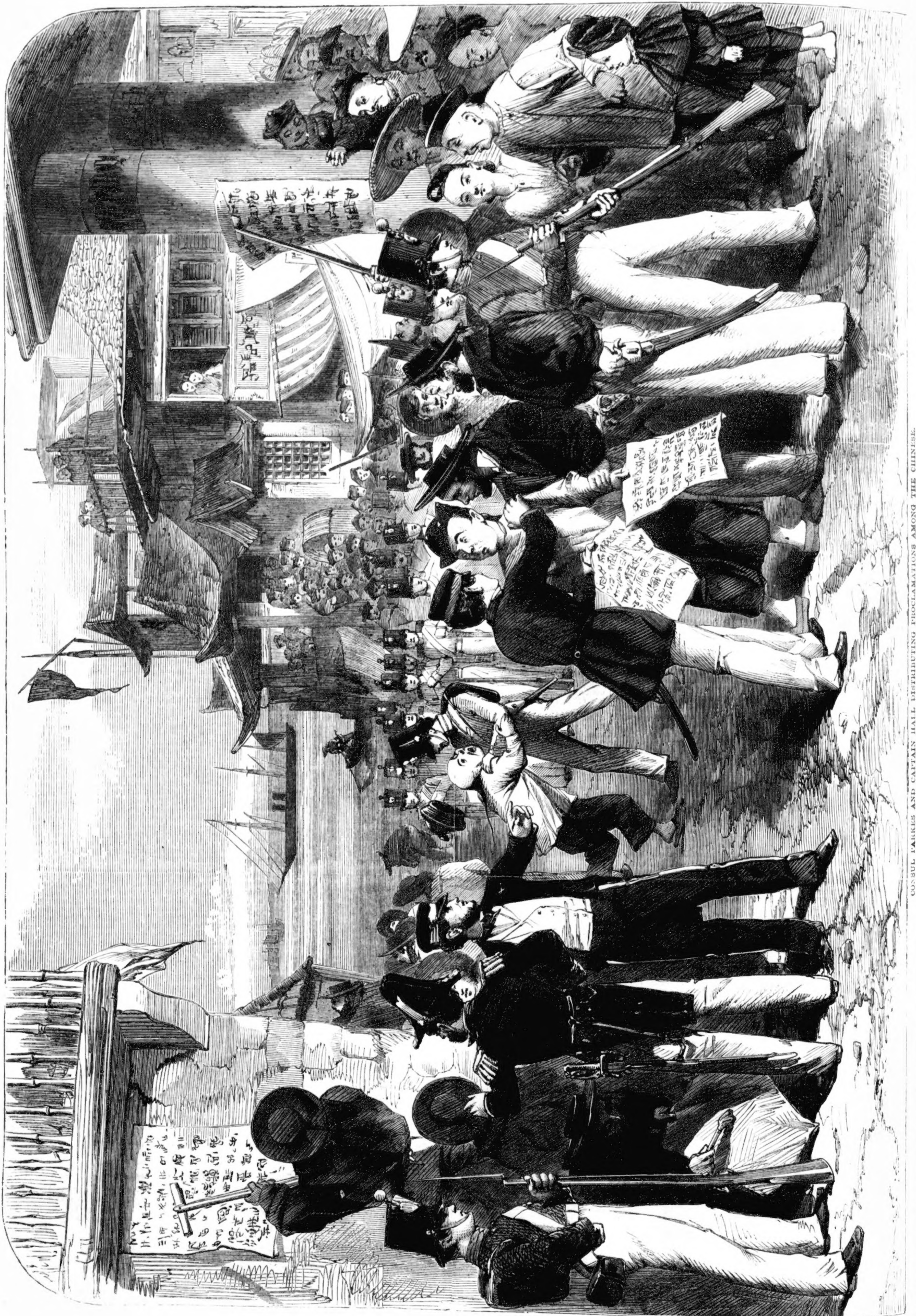
LADIES IN LUCKNOW.—"Perhaps you have not heard," says a Calcutta correspondent of the "Examiner," "that three ladies are known to be in Lucknow, where they are confined in one small room, but protected by a Vakeel. Two of them are the widows of officers who have fallen; but it is supposed that they have not heard of the death of their husbands. A letter from one of those has reached its destination; it was affecting to find that the writer had lost all note of the passage of time, asking when it would be Christmas? As soon as Sir James Outram became aware of the facts, he offered the rebels £5,000 for their ransom, which Lord Canning immediately doubled."

THE QUEEN AND THE WOUNDED INDIAN OFFICERS.—As soon as the news reached the Queen at Osborne of the arrival at Southampton, in the Pera steamer, of the wounded officers from India, her Majesty telegraphed to the Admiralty Office at that port, requesting to be furnished with their names and any other particulars respecting them.

THE DEFENCES OF MALTA.—One of the Malta papers mentions a rumour of a telegram having been received from the authorities in England to look to the state of the island-defences; and that in pursuance of that order a military commission is now sitting, of which the Lieutenant-General commanding, and the Colonels of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery, are members.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROCLAMATIONS AT CANTON.

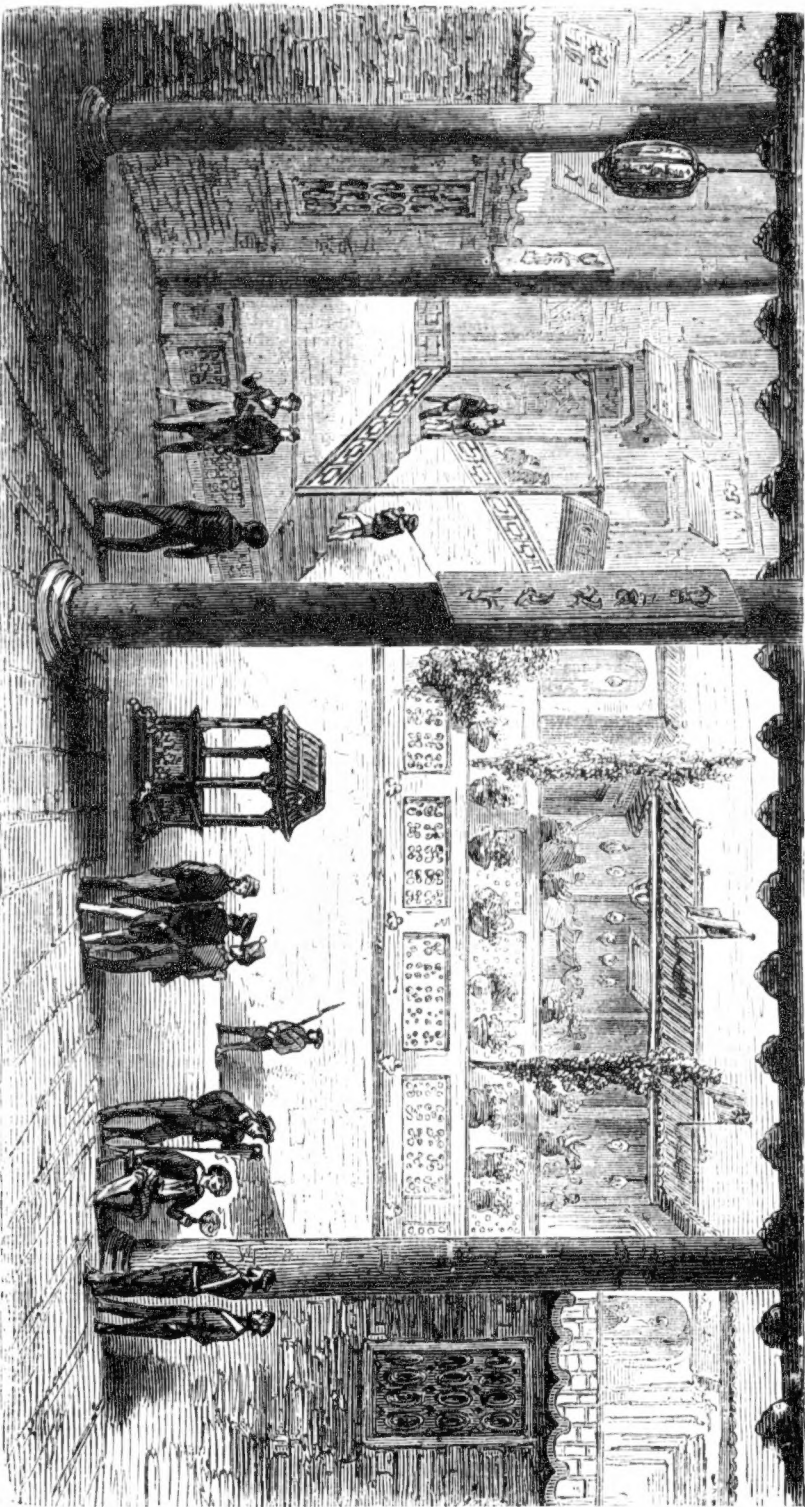
In the following page we have engraved one of the most interesting scenes in the recent operations before Canton—the distribution of certain proclamations from the Allied admirals to the inhabitants of the city, warning them that the city was to be bombarded in forty-eight hours. But the time for issuing these proclamations was so chosen that it expired on a Saturday night, thus giving several more hours for the people to take what means they could to save their property. Captain Hall and Mr. Parkes made sudden landings with their broadsides, rapidly struck one here and there against a wall, and then made good a retreat. This operation was repeated as often as practicable, until at length the Cantonese were made aware of what they were to expect, and warned to escape from the consequences of their rulers' obstinacy.



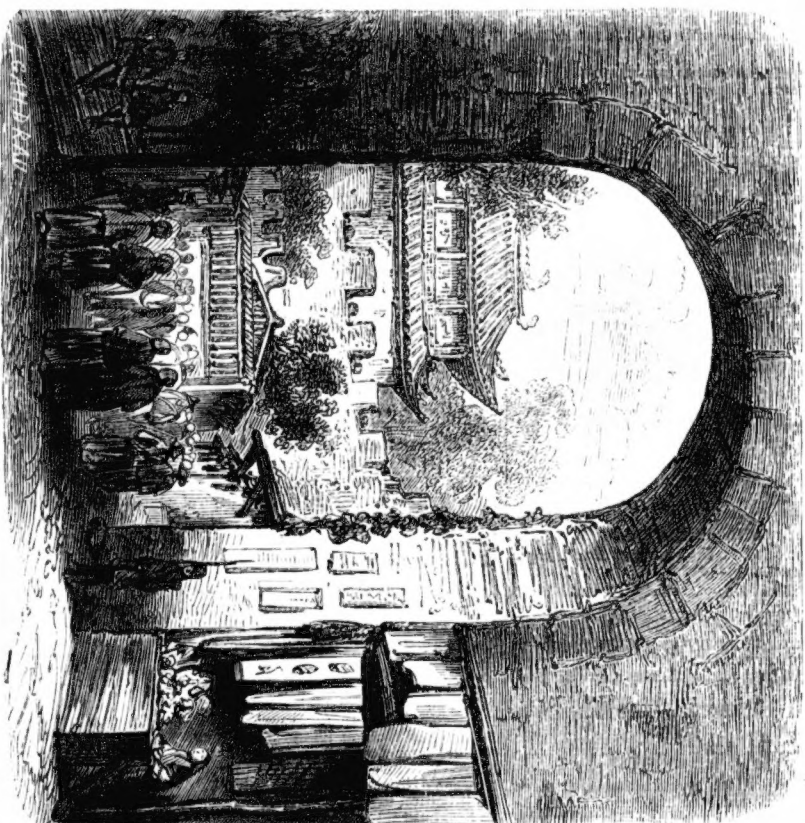
CONSUL PARKES AND CAPTAIN HALL DISTRIBUTING PROCLAMATIONS AMONG THE CHINESE.



THE ATTACK ON CANTON: BLOWING-UP OF FORTS GOLGH AND BLUE JACKET.—(SEE PAGE 200.)



THE GATEWAYS OF THE THIRD GATE AT CANTON.—(SEE PAGE 200.)



MANDARINS WITH OFFICERS FROM THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGES RECEIVED BY THE ALLIED GENERALS AT THE EAST GATE, CANTON.—(SEE PAGE 200.)

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1858.

THE CONDITION OF OUR SOLDIERS.

WE make no doubt that our readers have perused in various daily contemporaries the lengthy narratives which prove how infamously that historic character, the British soldier, is treated. Now, it is perfectly clear that the poor fellow's fetid barracks-rooms and sodden beef do not appeal to the imagination as vividly as his rush up the heights of Alma or his lion-like firmness among the rocks of Inkerman. Nay, for mere picturesqueness the nigger among his cane-crops and coffee-trees decidedly beats him. But we venture to hope that such a wretched habit as is now common of only attending to what noodles call *interesting* topics will not prevail over the sense of duty, which ought to make us ashamed of the way in which our fighting men are lodged and fed. For there is not a kennel of fox-hounds, not a game-cock establishment, where reason, and prudence, and kindness are not more shown in the management of the inmates than is the case in the British barracks.

The facts which have been shown to be true of our soldiers, and of the Guards especially, are, that architecturally the rooms in which they live are unhealthily situated; that the said rooms are infamously ventilated and badly appointed; that pulmonary disease is common among our troops in consequence; that the cookery is bad and the feeding unwholesomely monotonous. Every one of these particulars has been fully established by evidence, and it is a pressing public duty to urge that they be speedily reformed.

There are two great obstacles to reform in such matters. The first is the red-tapish character of the Horse Guards. It is unfortunately a strong feature in the governing military system of England, that habit and routine prevail there more than anywhere else. Reform is not only neglected, but it is disliked; it is associated by pedants (and there are at least as many pedants among soldiers as among scholars) with insubordination and want of discipline, and such professional bugbears. So that an army can never be reformed from *within itself*; because, while routine keeps the big men stationary, fear keeps the small men silent. A "reformer" is snubbed and shelved. On the other hand, the civil world without knows less of the Army than it does of the Church. Before the Russian War its grievances excited too little sympathy, even supposing that they were now fairly brought before the world. We see red coats in our streets, and we pass the walls which shut up their social life. But what opportunity have we of knowing how they eat and sleep, live and die? If there had been no war, would the infamies we are now exposing ever have been generally known or discussed?

To meet these obstacles, the Press can do something by making them known and making them hated. Possibly, too, it may prick the slumbering conscience of the magnates of our military system, and induce them to try at last to do their duty. The country will do its share of the business if the authorities will show the way by doing theirs. Prince Albert has sought—and not unsuccessfully—the reputation of a lover of social improvement. He is a field-marshal of the Army. Why does not his charity begin at home?

These revelations of the bad lodgings, bad food, and bad health of our soldiers, are all the more painful because they contrast with the much more civilised state of things in the sister service, the Navy. On the whole, the social condition of our sailors is highly respectable—is preferable, perhaps, to that of our best merchant-ships. There is at least some variety in the food there—if only from beef to pork, from cocoa to tea. Ventilation is aided by such contrivances as wind-sails. It is true that there are some natural advantages in the position of the sailor; but nobody has ever pretended that, as a whole, life at sea can ever be made so comfortable to any rank as life ashore. If such were the case as a general rule, we should have more people trying it.

We hope that the difference does not arise from the fact that the old bad treatment of our sailors produced a mutiny, which excited an alarm in England such as Napoleon never inspired.

We suspect that the Navy is better regulated because it is less centrally regulated. Each ship has its own life conducted by its own captain. Regiments move more immediately under a system established at headquarters than ships do. But this is only a partial explanation. Prisons are better managed under a system of central government than regiments are.

We regret to have to conclude that the apathy of great men in office must have been one cause of these evils. But the public will have to share the blame if they remain unredressed a twelvemonth longer.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE PRINCE CONSORT, accompanied by the youthful members of the Royal Family, will, according to present arrangements, return to Buckingham Palace from Osborne, on Monday next.

THE EMPEROR'S QUARTERS AT THE CHALONS CAMP are to be considerably enlarged, as His Majesty intends to receive much company there this year.

THE MARCHIONESS OF BUTE is laying out a series of pleasure grounds at Cardiff, under the name of the Sophia Gardens, for the use and recreation of the inhabitants. The walks and flower-beds comprise eighteen acres, with a large ornamental sheet of water.

THE MODEL GUN, manufactured in Woolwich Arsenal, and intended for presentation to the Emperor of the French, is now complete. The present will be conveyed to France in charge of a captain of the Royal Artillery. The inscription on the gun consists simply of the words—"To Napoleon III. from Queen Victoria, 1857."

CRIMES OF UNUSUAL ATROCITY are becoming very frequent in the French country towns. A young man named Guignard has been found guilty and sentenced to death for the murder of his father and two sisters, which he committed simply for the sake of robbing the house.

MR. CHARLES MATTHEWS (says the "New York Tribune") "was married in this city, on Sunday evening last (the 14th of February), to Mrs. Lizzie Weston Davenport, lately the wife of Mr. A. H. Davenport, of Wallack's Theatre. We believe that the decree of Court divorcing Mr. and Mrs. Davenport was pronounced on Saturday of last week."

SOME BOYS WERE "SNOW-BALLING" in Hyde Park, between Grosvenor and Stanhope Gates, last week, when they discovered the body of an infant in the snow, at the foot of a tree. It was wrapped in an old petticoat.

A BUST OF THE LATE GENERAL HAVELOCK is to be placed in the Guildhall as a memorial to that hero. It has also been determined to offer the freedom of the City to Sir J. Lawrence.

THE SHIPWRIGHTS OF HULL, 500 in number, are "on strike" in defence of the trade regulations respecting the number of apprentices, the quantity of work per day, the hours of overtime, &c. They had twice recently submitted to reductions in the rate of wages, from 35s. to 27s. per week; but they were obstinate with regard to their rules.

PARIS is beginning to experience, to a very considerable extent, the results of the new passport regulations regarding the admission of British subjects. Moreover, hundreds of foreigners have left the city.

AN AGENT FOR DR. COFFIN'S MEDICINES has been committed for trial, at Shrewsbury, charged with causing the death of a tradesman whom he was attending.

A NEW SCREW STEAMER, THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER, was successfully launched last week at Birkenhead. She is an iron steamer of 1,100 tons, with engines of 350 horse power, capable of working up to 1,200. She is to run between Odessa and Alexandria.

DESPOTISM cannot always endure the organs even of despotism. Within one week five numbers of the "Nord" have been confiscated at Vienna.

THE SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF CALIFORNIA, cost the country 1,400 dollars a day: they draw their pay in gold weekly.

THE EXPECTED MORMON WAR is very popular in California. Volunteer companies are drilling all over the country, panting for glory and spoil. Other patriots are eager for making money by supplying the wants of the army.

THE REVIVAL OF CREDIT has brought with it no renewal of commercial and speculative ardour in America; indeed, it is thought that in trade "the coming season will be one of great stagnation."

LORD DERBY has appointed the Hon. Colonel Wellington, P. Talbot, and Mr. Morris Drummond to be his private secretaries.

THE "TIMES" discourages the scheme for another Universal Exhibition, thinking it would fail of success.

THE REV. H. MOSTYN PRICE, a gentleman aged about sixty, and connected with some of the best families of Montgomeryshire, went into a hairdresser's shop, at Newton, to have his hair dressed. He afterwards purchased a razor, and, whilst the shopkeeper was absent getting change, inflicted so frightful a wound in his throat that he died in a few moments.

THE SYSTEM OF DIRECT ADMISSION TO THE ARTILLERY AND ENGINEERS by open competition has been put an end to under regulations issued from the Horse Guards. In future, all candidates for admission to the scientific corps must pass through Sandhurst.

THE BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL has been fixed by the committee of management to be held on the 31st of August, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of September next. The Earl of Dartmouth will act as president, and the proceeds of the festival will be applied to the use of the Birmingham General Hospital, as on former occasions.

THE DEATH OF REAR-ADMIRAL SIR EATON STANNARD TRAVERS is announced. The Admiral, who was seventy-one years of age at his death, had been engaged with the enemy on upwards of one hundred occasions; commanded at the destruction of eight batteries and three martello towers, as also at the capture of sixty sail.

DURING A TRIAL IN THE CROWN COURT, SLIGO, it was discovered that one of the jurors was intoxicated, whereupon the defendant was fined £20, and the jury were discharged.

THE STATE OF THE IRON TRADE AT DOWLAIS has led to a further reduction of wages, amounting in some cases to as much as 6s. in the pound.

MR. DISRAELI, as leader of the Ministerial party in the House of Commons, issued a circular to the Conservative members, soliciting their attendance on the 12th instant.

ONE OF LORD PALMERSTON'S LAST OFFICIAL ACTS was to send a donation of £100 to Mrs. Mogridge, widow of the popular writer known by the nom de plume of "Old Humphrey."

CEBA is this year expected to produce the largest sugar crop ever exported.

MR. BATES, the ex-banker, will not be set at liberty until October next.

THE INHABITANTS OF TIVERTON are about to present an address to Lord Palmerston, expressive of their sense of the ability with which he managed the helm of state during the Russian, Persian, Chinese, and Indian wars, and of his efforts to maintain amicable relations with the French Government.

ORDERS are out to the 20,000 mayors of the various communes in France to deliver no passport without the personal attendance of the individual, whose personal peculiarities are to be carefully depicted, in downright pre-Raphaelite style, without any idealised attempt at high art.

THE MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM has received a letter from Lord Derby, announcing that the Queen will visit Birmingham to open the People's Park in that town some time during the present season.

MR. JOHN BELL, the sculptor, has given a life-size statue of a Child to be disposed of for the benefit of the Artists' Benevolent Fund. The figure will, we understand, be disposed of by lottery.

AN AMERICAN PAPER records the death of Mrs. Winnie Lassiter, aged 130 years. She was a native of North Carolina.

THE HEALTH OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA is said to be rather improved.

THE DELWICH COLLEGE GOVERNORS are stated to have before them a recommendation from the managing committee that the gallery of pictures should be thrown open to the public four days in each week, free of charge, and on the two remaining days for 6d., tickets of admission to be no longer necessary. This recommendation requires only the sanction of the general board for its adoption.

MARSHAL CANNROBERT (says the Paris papers), playing with some children, hurt or dislocated his shoulder. "Knowing ones" laugh at this story, and say that the Marshal was winged in a late duel about a lady.

FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY GUNS were found in Canton, and 300,000lbs. of powder, 5,000 rockets, 2,000 blue lights, 3,000 stink pots, and six tons of bullets; 15,000lbs. of the powder were kept, the rest was destroyed.

VACCINATION with a magnetised needle is said to have proved extremely successful in insuring the rapid absorption of the virus.

THE ACCREDITED ORGANS OF FASHION declare that there is, or is to be, a reaction in her world against the excesses of hoop and flounce.

ALDERMAN MONK, recently convicted of forgery, has chosen as the hard labour to which he is to apply himself during his imprisonment, "Knitting cotton night-caps."

ADMIRAL LORD AYLMER, who entered the navy in 1790, served as a lieutenant at the battle of the Nile, commanded the Severn at the memorable battle of Algiers, and was engaged in the interval in twenty actions—is dead.

THE DEATH OF MR. BENJAMIN TRAVERS, the distinguished surgeon, is announced.

THE REMOVAL OF TEMPLE BAR is all but resolved on by the civic authorities.

IN A BANKRUPTCY CASE, last week, a curious investigation took place respecting a large quantity of cigars, which had been invoiced to the bankrupt as foreign "Dos Amicos," but they turned out to be of British manufacture. It transpired, in the course of the examination, that British cigars are manufactured chiefly from rhubarb leaves.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 63.

SLIP OF THE PEN.

OUR first duty this week is to correct a mistake which occurred in our last number. In quoting the opinion of an Honourable Member on the present state of parties in the House of Commons, we wrote: "Why should he (Lord Palmerston) send a Howard to Manchester to manage a Stamp Office, and appoint a *Labouchere* to be treasurer of the County Court?" For "*Labouchere*" read *Tollemache*—Mr. Tollemache (a relation of the Earl of Dysart), who succeeded Mr. Coppock, as county court treasurer.

AN OLD PLAY RECAST.

The curtain is dropped—one play is over, and the actors are behind the scenes, dressing for the next. On Friday the curtain will rise again, when the same drama will be put on the stage, but with an entirely new cast of characters. "Who shall be Cock of the Walk," will be the play as usual: a tragico-comic melodrama, very old, but very exciting. For three years Lord Palmerston has played "Cock," and might have continued to do so for the term of his natural life, but he overdid his part of late, and in short became too "cocky." And he was dethroned, and Mr. Disraeli will take his place for a time. To drop our figure, this change in the position of parties in the House will be fruitful of other changes, which it will be interesting to note. For instance—when Mr. Disraeli and his friends were on the left of the Speaker's chair, they were exceedingly inquisitive, and, like Mr. Clemenham in "Little Dorrit," were always "wanting to know;" and Palmerston and Co. were like Mr. Barnacles, obstinate in resisting impertinent inquiries. But now my Lord Palmerston and Co. will "want to know," and Disraeli and his partners will act Barnacles, and resist inquiry. This will be one of the first results of this great and unexpected change. Members out of office are always inquisitive, restless, and very determined in their "pursuit of knowledge," even under the greatest "difficulties;" whilst the "ins," on the contrary, are reticent, secret, mysterious, and resolute in discouraging impertinent curiosity. However prying and inquisitive a man may be in opposition, and however indignant he may be with the Right Honourable Gentlemen opposite, because they will not satisfy his desire for knowledge, let him but shift his position by the mere length of the distance which separate the Opposition from the Ministerial benches, and he becomes a changed man in a moment. All his questionings are of course stopped, because he is now at the fountain-head of knowledge; but what is remarkable is, that he becomes suddenly as jealous and non-communicative as his opponents were. But a few days before, "he could not understand why the Noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government should refuse to comply with so reasonable a request for information. The House 'wants to know'—the country wants to know," &c., &c. But now how changed is his tone! The very words of the Noble Lord, which used to ruffle him so but a week since, now come with all due official solemnity from his own lips. "In the present state of the negotiations, until those negotiations shall be completed, it will not, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government, be proper, nor for the interest of the state, that the information required by the Noble Lord should be given; but," &c., &c., in time-honoured, stereotyped official phrase. And on the other side the change is equally great and remarkable: my Lord Palmerston, who so lately resisted all inquiry and evaded questions by jauntily (amidst the cheers of his junior lords and under secretaries) riding off on some clap-net, will now himself "want to know," and will express, in high-drawn terms, his indignation that he can get no direct answer to his reasonable question. And Sir George Cornwall Lewis will "want to know" something about the "ways and means," the balance, the Exchequer Bills, and the like. And Mr. Wilson, who, when on the Treasury bench, never spoke without orders, will stand on his own hook and also "want to know." Sir Charles Wood will be poking questions at Sir John Pakington, Sir Benjamin Hall at Lord John Manners; and all down the line the "outs," who but a short fortnight back were employed in resisting these interpellative missiles with official wet blankets, will now themselves keep up a constant fire of interpellations.

THE MOUTHS OF THE DUMB OPENED, AND THE TONGUES OF THE TALKATIVE PARALYSED.

Nor will this be the only change which will result from the great change. The eyes of many who were blind will be opened, and the tongues of the dumb be unloosed; whilst, on the other hand, many sharp-sighted eyes will be dimmed, and many a valuable tongue paralysed. For example—Mr. Bernal Osborne, who has so seldom spoken of late, and never excepting by command, will again move the House to laughter and cheers as he was wont to do before he put on the official muzzle. Sir Benjamin Hall, who whilom was a great church reformer, has lately discoursed only about parks, and bridges, and roads, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the vagaries of Sir Charles Barry—but now having slipped collar, he will resume his position and "lift up his testimony" against pluralities, non-residence, inequalities of livings, and other ecclesiastical wrongs. Mr. Robert Lowe may be expected to dilate upon the Colonies; Mr. Wilson upon banking, and will be able to correct those false notions upon the currency, held by his former colleague, which when in office he could only condemn by shrugs and smiles. But on the other side we shall see still greater marvels: Sir John Pakington has become First Lord of the Admiralty, and of course must thrust his education schemes into the pigeon-hole, for assuredly he will have no time for education schemes now. In the morning he must diligently wait upon his senior clerk and accountant-general, to be "coached" for his evening's examination, and at night in his place in Parliament. Besides, education is not in his department, and if in the meanwhile the people do "perish for lack of knowledge," it cannot be helped. For the nonce, my Lord Stanley must lay aside his Radicalism, and give no utterance to his exceedingly questionable views on education and other topics. The "Protestant party" have long looked upon the Noble Lord with more than suspicion. It is not "Popish leanings" that they lay to the charge of the Noble Lord, but something worse—"Germanism." Popery is bad enough, but of this mysterious, undefinable "Germanism" they have still greater horror—all the more, perhaps, because they know nothing about it. And what will Lord Naas do if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or the Secretary of the Treasury, brings forward a measure to settle the vexed question of superannuation to the Civil Service—that question, on which my Lord Naas so valiantly fought and conquered last session? Answer—Nothing. He is now Secretary for Ireland, and if his Government were to undo all that my Lord Naas achieved, he must be dumb as a fish. And lastly, that fiery Hotspur, Lord Claude Hamilton, who used in passionate tones to hurl his "prave orts" against friends and foes, must now learn to be silent, for it is not the custom for the "Treasurer of her Majesty's Household" to speak in the House. It will be his duty now "to make a house and keep a house—and cheer the Minister," and of course vote, but no more, excepting it may be that now and then he will have to appear in his uniform of blue and gold, and with obsequious bow deliver to the Speaker the answer of her Most Gracious Majesty to some address sent to her by her Faithful Commons. This will be doubtless a hard task for the Noble Lord, but he must submit.

SHOOTING SEDUCERS.—Immediately after the termination of the Jeoffoise affair we reported that a similar case had occurred in the department of the Moselle. A wealthy farmer named Pochon, of Habouville, of which village he is mayor, having learned that his daughter Clementine, fifteen years of age, was in the habit of receiving visits from a young farm labourer named Basset at night, ordered his son Hubert, only eighteen years of age, to wait in her chamber with a loaded gun, and to shoot Basset dead in the event of his presenting himself. Hubert obeyed, and when after waiting some time he saw Basset climb up to the window, he cried out, "What are you doing there?" and fired. The charge entered Basset's heart and he fell dead. The father and son have now been brought to trial on the charge of murder. The son did not deny having fired the fatal shot, but declared that he had no intention to kill; the father did not deny having given his son the order to fire, but said that he was distracted at discovering his daughter's disgrace, and at learning that it had been the talk of the village for weeks before he knew of it. The jury acquitted the prisoners.

Literature.

Magdalen Stafford; or, a Glean of Sunshine on a Rainy Day.
London: Bell and Dabb.

THIS is the history of the development of a timid, clever girl of a highly sympathetic nature, who is not demonstrative, principally because she trusts her power of inspiring affection, and who sets too much value on intellectual superiority in consequence of the keen impression upon her of the worthlessness of physical charms. Magdalen Stafford has an elder sister, Gratia, who is very beautiful and intelligent, and possesses all kinds of external merits in which the sister Magdalen is deficient. Thus, Gratia dances with much elegance, while her younger sister sings very beautifully—singing, whatever its effect, being in no sort of way an outward accomplishment. While the little girls are still under the care of their nurse, that sagacious woman, after praising the beauty of the elder of the two, says to Magdalen, that "it is not always the prettiest as is the best behaved," an observation which Magdalen understood to imply that if Gratia was so very herself was good. From this moment Magdalen, seizing the opportunity on the balm offered to her wounded self-love, looked upon goodness "not as a thing for which you must strive, labour, and endeavour, but as a natural advantage, bringing with it a temporal reward." And as," continued Magdalen, "I saw Gratia's complexion glowing and transparent, though her bonnet was at the back of her head full as often as mine, and her hands soft and delicate though she was as frequently as myself transgressed the rule by which we were forbidden to work in our garden without gloves; so I imagined I might with impunity indulge in a burst of irritability or yield to a fit of wilfulness, without by any means impairing the goodness on which I so prided myself."

In the school-room Magdalen is before her sister in all their studies, but she is not brilliant in the dancing-class. A little failure in the choreographic line takes place one day, in presence of a Mr. Welwyn, who takes the poor child's part as she bursts into tears in consequence of the unmerited rebukes of the dancing-mistress. But at the same time Mr. Welwyn whispers an opinion, in a voice that is just audible, to the effect that Magdalen is not so good-looking as her sister, and in this manner he continues to appreciate her good qualities without being at all blind to her deficiencies, throughout the novel.

Mr. Welwyn is a high-minded, thoughtful, accomplished man, who in an early period of his life has sacrificed a brilliant future to his affection for his mother. Long after he has formed a sincere attachment to Magdalen—an attachment which her diffidence will not allow her to suspect, although there is nothing to which she aspires more ardently—he sacrifices his love, as he had sacrificed his ambition, to a sense of duty. In his early youth, Mr. Welwyn had formed a half-engagement with a very pretty, but by no means serious-minded girl, from whom he had conceived the germ of a passion which was never fully developed. Through the instrumentality of the generous, well-meaning, ill-fated Magdalen, the young lady is made to believe that the gentleman still loves her, while the gentleman is on his side persuaded that he is still beloved. A re-engagement is the result of this double error, and a marriage appears to be imminent, when an accident occurs so serious a nature, that it forces all who are involved in it to act and speak truthfully. In fact, the house in which all the principal characters happen to be staying catches fire; Magdalen is on the point of being burned to death, when she is saved, at the risk of his own life, by Mr. Welwyn. Mr. Welwyn, we should have stated, takes too serious a view of human life to please his betrothed, who moreover looks upon his family as an unlucky one, and can scarcely disconnect his residence in the house from the fire which has nearly consumed it. Finally she rejects him.

Magdalen has been seriously frightened, and Mr. Welwyn's mother (almost in a literal sense) frightened to death by the fire. Magdalen, however, when she recovers, nurses Mrs. Welwyn; and when Mrs. Welwyn recovers, accepts with unaffected joy the hand of her son, who has loved her since she was a child, and has watched over her gradual development with the most constant and earnest solicitude. It would be strange, as he himself observes, if he did not love the work of his own hands.

This tale possesses rare merit, the best part of the book being the character of Magdalen. Mr. Welwyn is a lady's hero; not the hero of the ordinary "young lady" who writes romances, but of the thoughtful, earnest woman, who takes a serious view of life, and does not think it worth while, if she falls in love at all, to cast her affections away on a man who deals in stereotype compliments and stale witticisms. The author of "Magdalen Stafford" proves, by the selection of her hero, to what sex she belongs. No man would dream of representing the lover perpetually finding fault with the loved one; nor would he presume to show a most interesting young lady (to say nothing of two other young ladies, also of great charms), who not merely loves, but almost worships, this very critical admirer. However, it is probable that women do not know exactly what pleases men, and it is quite certain that men do not always know what pleases women. High-minded and admirable, in all respects, as Mr. Welwyn shows himself, we should nevertheless have thought that he was just the kind of man who would not gain the affections of three young ladies, all of different dispositions. All that can be said in his favour is, that he is the sort of man a woman ought to love. However, all that takes place between himself and Magdalen is natural, and admirably told.

Emmeline. By SARAH SYMONDS. London: Newby.

FREDERICK LATIMER is an officer, quartered in a country town, where he distinguishes himself by making successful love to Sophia, an apothecary's daughter, and one of the local beauties. The military Lovelace had intended merely to amuse himself at the young lady's expense; but he had reckoned without his victim, and instead of leaving her to lament him in the little country town, ends by taking her away as his wife. Frederick is cut by his rich uncle as soon as his matrimonial feat is made known; but an amiable elder brother, named Arthur, persuades Sir Philip Latimer to grant his nephew a certain amount of forgiveness, which he does to the extent of £300 a year. The younger brother thanks Arthur for his intervention, and by way of return, recommends him to go to Italy, and endeavour to marry Evelyn Temple, a young lady with whom both brothers have formerly been in love.

Arrived in Italy, Arthur follows his brother's kind advice to the letter, and makes desperate love to Evelyn; but his affection is not returned so readily as that of Frederick's had been by the apothecary's daughter; and it is only by an incident, which is nearly proving fatal to him, that the young man's passion is discovered. At a ball which is graced by the presence of Evelyn, a certain lord attached to the British embassy pays considerable attention to that young lady, to the intense annoyance of Arthur, who is at last brought into collision with his hated rival. The inevitable result (from a novelist's point of view) is a duel, and accordingly, on the following morning, a duel is fought, when Arthur, after sitting up late at night writing letters, gets severely wounded. He has taken the precaution of addressing a letter to Evelyn, which he leaves on a table in his room, and which is read by the young lady herself just as he is brought back in an almost dying state to her father's house, where he is staying on a visit. So far Arthur Latimer has gained more than his opponent by the meeting, for he is now in a very interesting position, which he improves by refusing to take his medicine from anyone but Evelyn Temple. Evelyn Temple, to do her justice, administers the drugs in very liberal quantities; but, in spite of this, her Arthur recovers, though it certainly appeared at one time that he was about to sink beneath the effects of a dose of opium. The lover, of course, enjoys his convalescence amazingly, and, as soon as he is well enough, goes to England with Evelyn and marries her.

The heroine, we are sorry to say does not make her appearance until the reader is far advanced in the second volume. She is in fact the daughter of Evelyn and Arthur, and of course a certain time must

be allowed for her to grow up to something like a heroine's age. In the meanwhile, a bad cousin named Philip, the son of Frederick Latimer and the apothecary's daughter, who has grown up a thorough intriguer, has also had time to reach the age befitting a villainous person. He inherits his father's talent for making love to the wrong person, and insists upon marrying the young, the beautiful, the virtuous Emmeline. Emmeline objects to this, feeling far more disposed to wed one Arthur, on whom she has long since fixed her affections. But as Sophia, the mother of Philip, has wickedly contrived to make the half-delirious Sir Philip leave, on his death-bed, the bulk of his property to the younger—that is to say, her own—branch of the family, Emmeline must marry her bad cousin, or be contented to lose the estate of Elmwood. She does not care much about Elmwood, but unless she becomes Philip's wife, that amiable claimant for her hand will expose her brother, who is accused of having cheated at cards. At length Emmeline gains possession of a real *bond fide* will, and also acquires the means of proving the worthlessness of the more recent document. But Philip still boasts of holding the evidences of her brother's fraud, so that Emmeline is still at his mercy, for it does not occur to her that her brother might be able to establish his own innocence, nor indeed, under the circumstances, would it have been easy for him to do so.

Finally, a young man, who is dangerously ill, confesses to Emmeline's virtuous lover that the brother of Emmeline is the victim of a plot, which he at the same time explains and exposes. Emmeline Latimer and her virtuous lover, finding that there is no longer any just impediment to their union in holy matrimony, are joined together in the usual manner, while Philip, enraged at the revelations of the young man who is dangerous ill, hastens to his rooms and cuts his throat.

This novel is full of incidents, and in the incidents must rest its sole chance of success.

Fides. By the Author of "Gabrielle, or, the Sisters." London: Newby.

"FIDES" is a Puseyite novel, bound in black, lettered in gold, with red-edged leaves, and a black border round each page like the "Morning News" after an Indian massacre. We must not omit to add, as a fact entirely new both to the religious and to the circulating-library world, that this picturesque and highly-coloured work (which in an external sense it certainly is), has a cross imprinted on the cover. After the cross, the gold letters, and the red-edged leaves, the next thing that attracts the reader's attention is the dedication, from which we learn that "a sinner who seeks for consolation and finds safety only at the foot of the Cross, dedicates this book by permission to the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell, through whose instrumentality, by God's blessing, the hallowed emblem of our redemption is rescued from humiliation;" after which it is placed by his disciple on the back of a novel! The only possible explanation of the mockery on the cover is to be obtained by taking it in connection with the repentant dedication, and assuming that the latter was written and stamped in upon a blank-page after the book had been bound, and when the sinner had suddenly become conscious of the fact that he had just committed an act of great irreverence. He would then have had to choose between sacrificing the entire edition on the one hand, and expressing his remorse in a public manner to Mr. Liddell on the other. If we accept any other explanation, the dedication must be looked upon as ironical, for it is certainly in flagrant contradiction with the outside of the book, and whatever effect the publication might have on the reputation of the author of "Winifred," in "Hogg's Instructor," it certainly could not be considered a successful performance on the part of a "sinner" anxious to amend his ways.

Certain eccentricities apart, "Fides" is an interesting novel, and the character of the heroine, Fides Locke, is drawn with considerable power. The general objections to the book will be that there is too much Puseyism throughout, and above all, too much celibacy at the end. An author may marry his heroine, or kill her if he likes, or send her into a convent, if she happen to be a Roman Catholic. But he must either break her heart or publish the banns (in the case of Puseyite authors, licenses are of course out of the question). To let her continue for ever friendly and even intimate with a man whom she passionately loves but will not marry, while the lover, who is supposed to be equally ardent, neither insists on marrying her, nor destroys himself like Werther, nor ruins her like Lovelace—this indeed is a most impotent conclusion, and in the eyes of most novel-readers will be considered no conclusion at all. It is true that there is some mystic union of the lovers' souls, but we are sure the novel-reader will not be contented with that.

We lay more stress than may at first appear necessary on the very original denouement of "Fides," because the total abolition of marriage in the novel, evidently forms part of the author's system. The secondary characters are treated after the same fashion as the hero and heroine, "for though dear Dr. Talbot preserved inviolate his attachment to the single-hearted Laura, she remained in such blissful ignorance of its fervour, that a friendly intimacy existed unbroken between them, and many happy hours they passed in social Christian intercourse."

The plot of "Fides" is simple enough. To begin with, there is an old stone cross in the sylvan town of S. Hubert's, of which the cross on the cover of the book is in all probability a copy. This antique memorial is looked upon as a relic of superstition by the unpleasant characters of the book, while the personages with whom the reader is intended to sympathise regard it with "peculiar veneration"—a feeling which they extend to "the ruins where centuries ago rose the towers of a cathedral church, when altars were illumined, and white-robed priests ministered, where holy chrism anointed the walls, and symbolical frankincense was burnt." Fides Locke is a young lady, whose greatest earthly ambition is to decorate the local church in what she considers an appropriate manner. "In that costly temple," says the heroine, "I would collect the choicest specimens of art—sculpture, painting, rich hangings, alabaster, and odoriferous perfumes. I would have the altar of stone, and on that altar I would exalt the cross, laden with priceless gems." Fides has, however, one other desire, for the fulfilment of which she prays most earnestly. Philip Vernon has made a hasty declaration to her, and she has responded to it by a look (there is no time to speak), which implies that she accepts and returns his affection. Soon afterwards, Philip forms a passing attachment to a young girl who has nothing but physical beauty to recommend her. Fides, stung to the heart by his faithlessness, enters her bed-room, stops before the Bible (scarlet and gold, clasped with gems), and prays to Heaven, like a good, religious girl, that Philip Vernon may kneel at her feet, and that she may listen once more to his soft whispers of passion and entreaty—with the deliberate intention, be it understood, of rejecting him for ever!

Fides' prayer is granted, and in a powerfully written scene we are shown how she gradually leads Philip on to a second declaration. This declaration is in the form of an earnest, passionate entreaty, to which Fides replies by "rejecting his renewed love with contempt, and for ever." She enforces her protestations of scorn as the heroine of a religious novel should do—and as no girl with the least religious feeling would ever do in real life—by appeals to God and the Saviour; but the struggle is too great for her, and grief for the love that has been sacrificed, with remorse for the act of vengeance she has so deliberately committed, throw her into such a violent state of agitation that the result is a dangerous fever. This illness is the natural consequence, and at the same time the condign punishment, of her sin.

In the meanwhile Philip has adopted two well-known expedients for curing unsuccessful love, which, united, must be quite irresistible. He has gone to Italy, and taken to drinking. In the full enjoyment of both these delights—that is to say, sitting in the theatre at Naples, and almost delirious from wine—Philip suddenly sees Fides on her sick bed. Philip's friends attribute the vision to intoxication, but the author hints that it was a miracle. However this may have been, Philip returns to England and has an interview with Fides, who is gradually recovering. Fides has been purified by severe illness, Philip (we presume) by severe dissipation. At all events they have both be-

come pure, and so perfectly angelic, that, like the angels, they are neither married nor given in marriage.

There are many excellent pages in this by no means excellent novel, but the best thing in the book is undeniably the character of Fides—sensitive, implacable, but finally subdued and repentant. The vengeance of Fides recalls a similar vengeance in Miss Mulock's novel, the "Ogilvies," where, however, it is brought about in a more natural manner. In "Fides," instead of neglect and simple forgetfulness of an implied promise, there is the slightest possible infidelity; and whatever reprisals this might call forth, it would certainly be forgiven and even forgotten in the end. On the other hand, we cannot too much admire the talent the author has shown in inventing a new termination for novels. The old one had certainly become somewhat hackneyed, but unless the "sinner" to whom we are indebted for "Fides" has made up his mind to sin no more—that is to say, to write no more novels—we advise him in his next work not only to leave all the good characters single, but to marry all the bad ones.

CURIOUS COINCIDENCES.—On the 22nd of February, 1851, Lord John Russell was defeated on Locke King's motion, and resigned. On the 22nd of February, 1852, Lord John Russell's Administration was finally broken up. On the 22nd of February, 1853, Lord Palmerston's Administration was broken up by the retirement of the Peaches; and on the 22nd of February, 1858, Lord Palmerston's second Administration finally resigned, in consequence of the vote of censure conveyed by Milner Gibson's motion.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE LATE AND PRESENT MINISTRIES.—Mr. Bright, in acknowledgement of a vote of thanks adopted by a public meeting held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the part he took in the late Ministerial defeat, addressed a letter to the Secretary of the meeting, in which he says:—"I am greatly obliged to your townsmen for their kindness to me. I must say, however, that I took no part in the recent debate. I seconded the resolution proposed by my friend Mr. Gibson, and entirely approved it, and rejoice at the result which has followed. I congratulate you and the country on the downfall of the very worst Ministry that I have known. The Ministry which has succeeded to it may be deemed a transition Ministry, to be followed, I trust, by one more entitled to the confidence of the great Liberal party in the country."

THE ENGLISH CHURCH AND THE INDIAN MUTINY.—A memorial to the Queen on the subject of the Indian revolt has been signed by 649 clergymen in the diocese of Lichfield. After recording the profound grief and horror of the memorialists on account of the atrocities committed by the mutineers, the memorial goes on to say:—"We humbly represent that your Majesty's Indian Government has hitherto exhibited a neutrality between Christianity and false religions which is dishonouring to God and inconsistent with the obligations of a Government and people professing the gospel of Christ; that we have not, as a Government, duly endeavoured to raise the standard of national morality upon the foundation of the Christian religion; and that the many millions of your Majesty's Indian subjects have been permitted to remain under the pernicious influence of evils of the most debasing character. That the system of religious neutrality thus pursued has signally failed of producing the expected result of conciliation, and has been foully proved by the revolting cruelties of the recent rebellion. We humbly beseech your Majesty to embrace the opportunity which the blessing of God upon your arms in India is preparing in order to impress upon your Majesty's heathen and Mahometan subjects that this neutral policy will no longer be pursued, but that the countenance and aid of the Government will be cordially given to every legitimate means of bringing the Christian religion under their notice. . . . While we desire for every man the free exercise of his conscience in matters of religion, and would by no means have any steps taken to force Christianity upon the people of India, we at the same time pray that whatever rites and usages of the Hindoos and Mahometans are at variance with humanity or public decency, may be suppressed as offences against the law; and that if, in any instance, the practice or custom of your Majesty's Government gives support or countenance to the rites of the Hindoo or Mahometan religion, such practice or custom shall at once and for ever cease."

NENA SAHIB'S TREASURES.—A young officer who assisted at the recovery of some of the Nena's treasure near Bhitoor, writing to his father, under date the 30th of December, says:—"Another Engineer officer and myself, with a few Sappers, have been fishing treasure out of one of Nena Sahib's wells at his palace at Bhitoor, about ten miles from Cawnpore. The well contained about twenty-five feet of water, but by getting 200 of the line to work half a dozen buckets we succeeded in getting it down to three feet. Two or three Sappers then went down, and, after emptying the well of three feet of rubbish, which the fellows had thrown on the top, we managed to get out about £2,000 worth of silver plate and about £6,000 worth of gold vessels. Some of the gold plate was magnificent. Two large plates were two feet nine inches each in diameter and of solid gold, and weighed together 70lb. The other gold articles consisted of chalice, cups, &c., spoons for throwing rose-water, massive spoons for the Ganges water when worshipping, &c. It was difficult work, for we had no implements for working the well, and the water came in at the rate of sixty gallons a minute. This mine is not quite worked out yet, and we left a few Sappers at Bhitoor to get at the rupees, which they say are still at the bottom. The Nena's palace is in complete ruin, and everything belonging to him in the village we have burnt."

NOBLE CONVERTS.—The "Univers" says that the number of converts to Popery in England within the last few years includes three duchesses, one marchioness, two countesses, eight right honourable ladies (sic), ten baronets, two archdeacons, eighty-five clergymen, and two hundred and seventy-two distinguished members of the aristocracy. In order to enhance the value of these conversions, the organ of the Jesuits observes, that "titles in England are not usurped by the premier venu, as they are in France: they are therefore real countesses and viscountesses who have quitted the Established Church, and incurred the displeasure of their Queen for conscience sake."

AN ACTRESS IN A NEW CHARACTER.—A Vienna letter says:—"There has been a regular pilgrimage from the inner city to the suburb Mariahilf to see a popular actress selling flour and eggs to her numerous admirers. It was done for the benefit of a woman who was in distress; but the Lord Chamberlain is a tremendous stickler about etiquette, and will not fail to remind the young lady that it is highly unbecoming for a person who is a member of the Imperial Royal Company of Dramatic Artists to sit from morning till night in a shop filled with 'heavy swells,' and surrounded with a mob of gamins. The sum raised was large, as ten florins were demanded, and willingly paid, for a single egg."

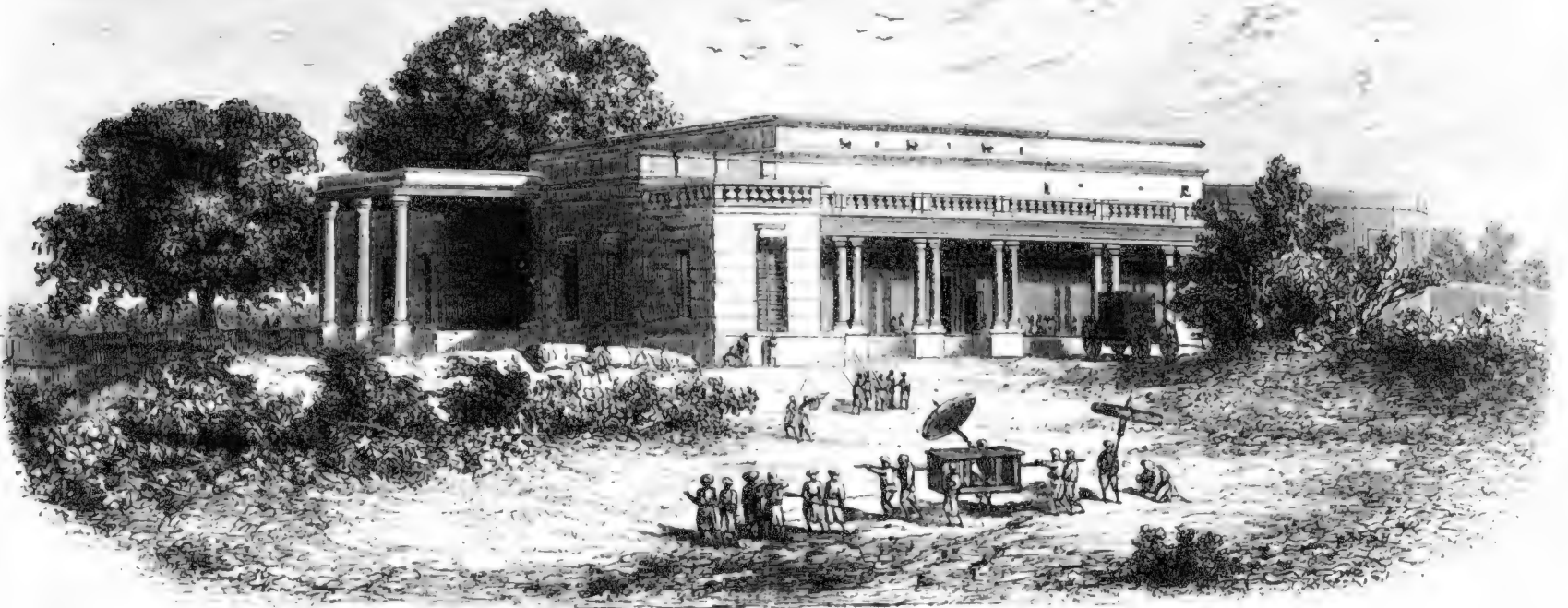
RUSSIAN LOSSES IN THE CRIMEA.—The Russian journals publish a statistical account of the losses sustained by New Russia and the Crimea during the late war. We have already mentioned to what a condition the buildings at Sebastopol were reduced after the siege, where only fourteen houses remained uninjured. The following are particulars concerning other places:—At Kerch, only 380 houses were left tenable, fifty others were dreadfully damaged, and 412 were completely destroyed; no trace remains of 607 other edifices, which made up the total of the buildings in that town. Scarcely any of the monuments in the cemetery were left standing. The town of Eupatoria suffered less, but out of the 1,796 houses of which it was composed, 426 were completely destroyed, and 475 partly so. The town of Balaclava remained in the power of the enemy until the termination of the war, and was consequently less exposed to the causes of destruction; nevertheless, its losses amounted to 1,500,000 roubles. Throughout the whole of the Crimea 132 domanial estates and 105 Tartar villages were destroyed. Four-fifths of the beasts of burden died from epizootic diseases, considerable estates were abandoned, and certain localities remain in the present time entirely depopulated. In the interior of the Crimea, the towns of Taganrog, Mariopol, Berdianski, and Genitchek suffered most, 890 owners having lost all their property, estimated in value at two and a half millions of roubles. The other localities of New Russia suffered less than the peninsula; and, nevertheless, the special commission appointed to examine into the losses, estimates at 12,300,000 roubles the damage suffered by Bessarabia, and by the Governments of Ekaterinoslav and Cherson.

THE ENGLISH HOTEL AT BENARES.

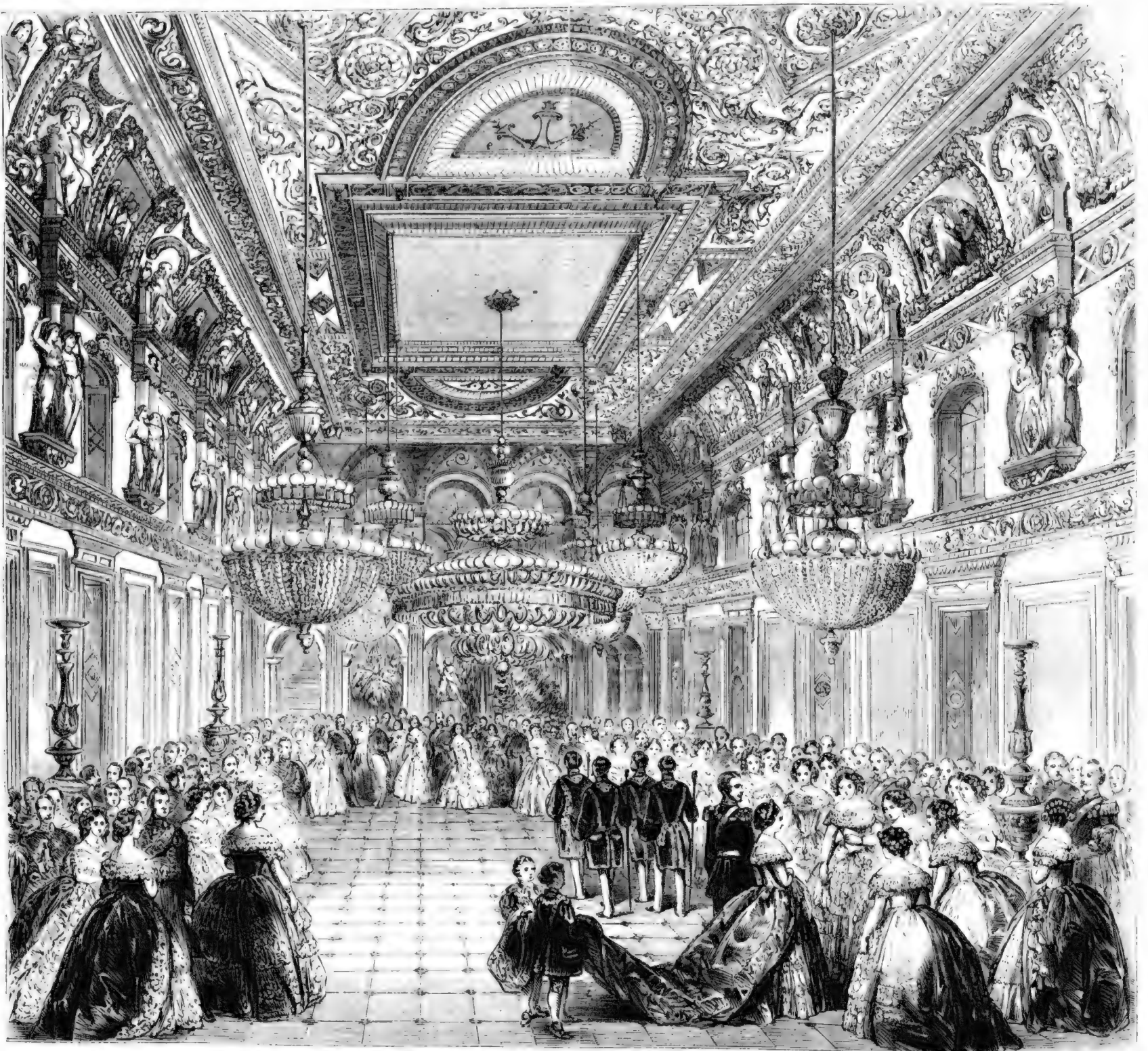
THE English hotel at Benares, of which we give a view in the next page, was in the first instance built for a bank, and is a fair specimen of the European buildings in India. They are generally very indifferent specimens of the Grecian order, and are altogether wanting in that elegance of ornamental detail so remarkable in Indian architecture. The Benares hotel is perhaps the best establishment of the kind in the North-Western Provinces, and is conducted with a liberality almost equal to that which has made Spence's hotel so famous at Calcutta.

THE POLONAISE AT THE WHITE HALL, BERLIN.

OUR readers are aware that a polonaise performed in state is regarded as an essential ceremony at the marriage of any member of the Prussian Royal family. This observance was not omitted, of course, in the case of the marriage of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William. We described the ceremony at the time; and now present our readers with a faithful view of the scene which it presented.



ENGLISH HOTEL AT BENARES.



THE POLONAISE BY THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM IN THE WHITE HALL OF THE ROYAL PALACE, BERLIN.

MARRIAGE PRESENTS TO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS
FREDERICK-WILLIAM.

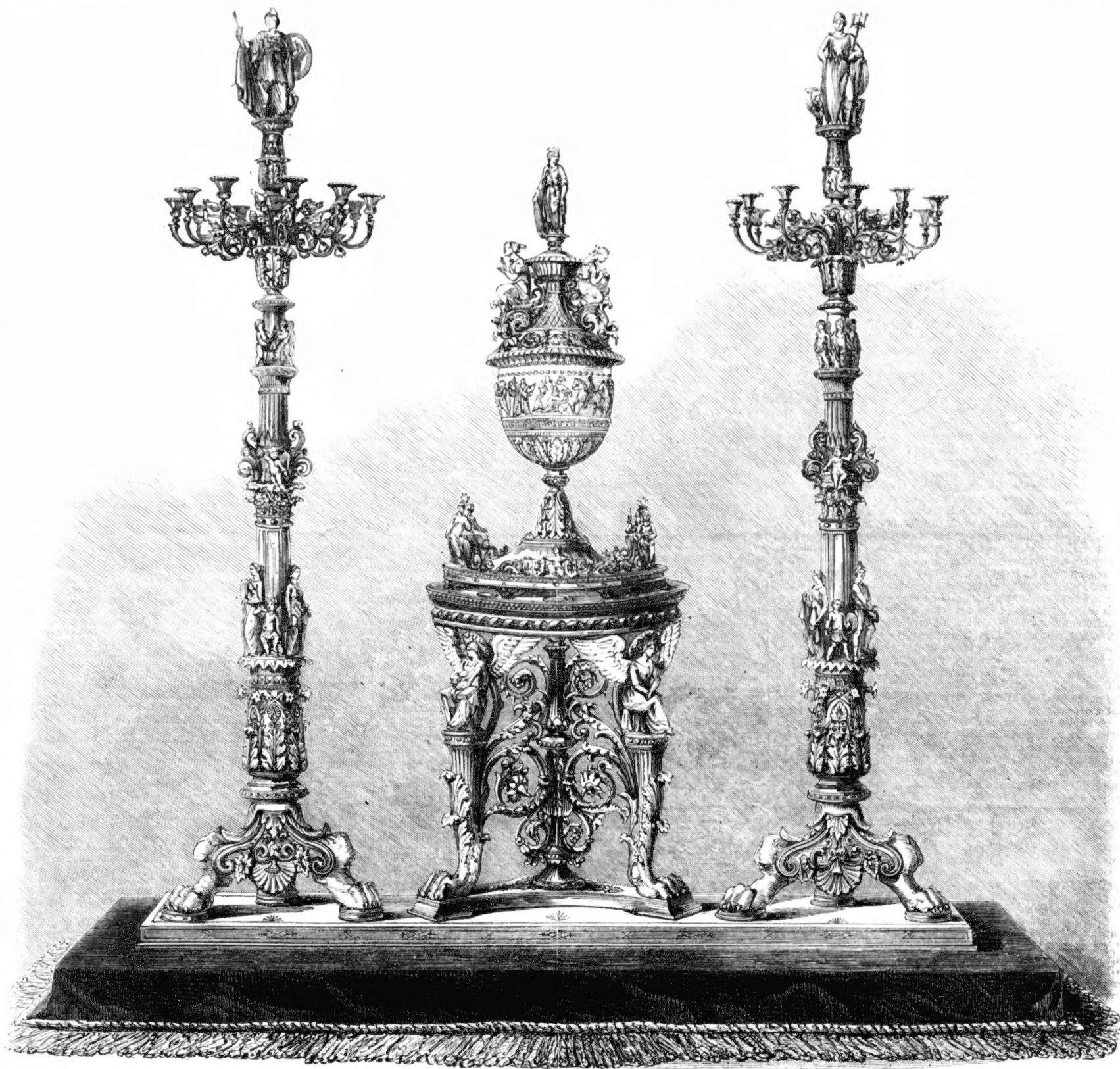
Of the various gifts offered to the Prince and Princess Frederick-William on the occasion of their marriage, the elegant objects of which we publish the accompanying engravings are among the most interesting. They were presented by the City of Berlin, and were manufactured by Messrs. Vallgald, from the designs and models of Professor A. Fischer.

This costly work consists of four articles united in one group—namely, a vase and salver on a magnificent stand, and two candelabra. The material employed is pure silver, weighing, as we have been in-

formed, five hundred weight. The character of the whole is in the rich Renaissance style.

The central objects of the group are the vase and stand. The lower portion of the former, thirty-five inches high, is a modified reproduction of the antique tripod. Three lions' feet, adorned with foliage, from which tendrils shoot out towards the middle stem, support figures of Faith, Love, and Hope, in a sitting posture. On their wings, and borne by the middle stem, rests the salver, four inches thick and thirty inches in diameter. The surface of the salver displays in the middle the ground-plan of the City of Berlin, in its present state. This is surrounded by an edge, somewhat elevated, on which are the

arms of the various quarters of the city enamelled on gold, and alternating with decorative chasing upon a dull gold ground. The inner circle of this edge contains in varied characters the names of the present members of the magistracy and municipal authorities; and these names, together with the ground-plan of the city previously mentioned, are calculated to give the work an historical importance for future times. The plateau of the vase is artistically ornamented with two groups of figures, representing "Art and Science" and "Trade and Commerce," as well as two genii, the one bearing the arms of England and Prussia, and the other a tablet with the inscription, "8 February, 1858." The groups and figures are connected by an independent



SILVER CANDELABRA, VASE, SALVER, AND STAND—THE MARRIAGE PRESENT OF THE CITY OF BERLIN, TO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA.



DESIGN ROUND THE VASE.

arabesque. The vase itself, about four feet high, the centre, properly speaking, of the whole, is surrounded by a relieve of more than seventy figures. It represents, in a classical style, the entry into Berlin of the Royal pair. The latter are seated in a triumphal car, the horses of which are led by Hymen into the city. The joyous inhabitants advance with English and German flags to meet their honoured guests; virgins strew their path with flowers, and Verolina (the allegorical genius of the city), bringing offerings of joy, shows her children the august couple; the authorities of the city come to present their congratulations; the car is followed by the mounted representatives of the various quarters of the city, and after them come the various corporations, guilds, and traders. Among the figures introduced are

numerous and extremely excellent portraits of the members of the municipal authorities. The neck of the vase is covered with fancy goldwork, while the handles are formed by kneeling figures. On the lid stands Verolina, with the bear on her escutcheon, and holding in her left hand the keys of the city.

The candelabra are about nine feet high, with stems of appropriate thickness. The feet are formed in the antique fashion, of three lions' claws. Above these rises the understem of the shaft, the decorations of which, consisting of leaves, tendrils, buds, and blossoms, unite in an overlapping rim of leaves, serving as a base for the principal groups of figures. For one of these the artist has selected allegorical representations of the virtues and qualities common to the two nations now most

intimately united—such, for instance, as Courage, Valour, Constancy, Prudence, Moderation, and Peacefulness; and for the other, Justice, Steadfastness, Strength, Industry, Wisdom, and Unity. These are arranged around the shaft. Higher up are three figures of genii playing, and a little above them, on the crystals surrounded with oaken chaplets, are five children winding and bearing wreaths. Here begins the cluster of twelve receptacles for lights, formed of the chalices of flowers and buds. From the midst of these spring pedestals, on one of which stands the figure of Britannia, and on the other that of Borussia, each more than a foot high. Perfection of taste and the most careful technical execution go hand in hand, with richness of invention in these noble gifts.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY IN ITALY.

A REMARKABLE series of meetings has been held in London during the last few days. Some forty delegates sent from Milan, Venice, Turin, Genoa, Padua, Brescia, Parma, and Rome, have been holding a conference with the view of advancing constitutional principles of government in their native country by peaceful and legal means, and of bringing about a confederation of Italian States. They have agreed to form a National Italian League, and an address to "the various Sovereigns, Princes, and Statesmen of Europe," has been unanimously adopted. This document appeals to the humanity, the justice, and the interests of Europe, and adds—

"The Italian people do not seek to demand an impossibility, but simply what could easily be carried into effect without disturbing the natural balance of power in Europe. To do away with the absolute state of terrorism in which they for ever live, to do away with the spirit of evil, seeming to crush the very beauty of life itself, is all they desire to render them happy and contented in the enjoyment of social, and political, and religious rights.

"The realisation of this object can thus be effected:—

"The giving to each of the various States of Italy a constitutional Government.

"The Constitutional Government of each State to embrace—A Representative Assembly and a House of Peers; the freedom of public speech and the liberty of the press; the right of public assembly; the appointment of a municipal guard; the organisation of the municipal authority on a liberal elective system; and for all courts of justice to be opened to allow public opinion to give full weight to justice. A mutual arrangement to be made between each of the various sovereigns of Europe, to appoint a central and supreme power to arrange all matters of difference that may arise between them, and to allow the representative assembly of each state to choose their own delegates by vote to represent the mutual interest of each sovereign at the central and supreme power. Thus, by the joint confederation of the states, would be represented to the world a body compact and united in itself, and the dream of the people of Italy would become at once a reality."

LAW AND CRIME.

A COLONEL OUSELEY, of the East India Company's service, lately applied for summonses against certain keepers who had captured him, and afterwards assaulted him violently, upon the occasion of his attempting to escape from a lunatic asylum in which he had been placed under their charge. According to his statement, he had contrived to get away from his place of detention, when he was pursued by several men, who flung him down and illused him brutally, by dashing his head against the ground, in revenge for his having endeavoured to release himself. The Magistrate said that if the summonses were granted he knew what the defence would be—that a medical certificate, duly signed, would be produced as an authority for the Colonel's arrest and detention as a lunatic. The applicant was referred for redress to the Lunacy Commissioners. Another magistrate, subsequently, at Westminster granted summonses against the two medical gentlemen alleged to be implicated in the matter. These duly attended, but the complainant did not; and the upshot of the matter was, that a complete denial was given to the charge, which seems to have had its origin in an hallucination on the part of the complainant. We readily accept the explanation volunteered by these gentlemen, both eminent in their profession and of undoubted respectability. But it is a strange thing that the law should so utterly, as it does, withdraw its protection from the unhappy sufferer from a diseased brain? A man with gout, erysipelas, or stomach-ache, does not by his misfortune forfeit his claims to protection as a citizen, but the unfortunate against whom insanity can merely be alleged, at once becomes to all reasonable intents and purposes an outlaw. He may be seized and imprisoned at once. His hallucination, which may consist in his believing himself to be a personal friend of Lord Palmerston, will be quite sufficient to invalidate his testimony, however rational, coherent, and circumstantial, as to any assault or brutality whatever which his keepers may choose to inflict upon him. If he escape and apply for justice, his persecutors may capture him at the very door of the court. We do not say that anything of this kind occurred in Colonel Ouseley's case, but his case serves to direct our attention to a great gap in the law, one by means of which much wrong may be, and no doubt frequently is, perpetrated. Another case, which also came before the public last week, deserves notice, as exemplifying another phase of our law of lunacy. A prisoner accused of an offence pleaded that he was temporarily insane at the time of its commission, and his defence appeared probable. "But," said the magistrate who heard the charge, "you had better withdraw the defence, and confess yourself guilty, as, if tried and acquitted on the ground of insanity, you will be imprisoned for life!" The prisoner complied with the humane suggestion of the benevolent magistrate, who thereupon sentenced him to one month's imprisonment. We need scarcely say that his worship's exposition of British law as it stands was perfectly in accordance with the ordinary practice. Centuries of enlightenment have not yet taught the criminal law that insanity is a disease, susceptible of gradation, alleviation, and cure.

Upon giving judgment in the case of one R. W. Burton, a fraudulent auctioneer, who had committed a shameful breach of trust upon one of his customers, Mr. Commissioner Phillips made some remarks which coincide with the views expressed in this column two or three weeks since on the subject of imprisonment for debt. The Commissioner hoped his judgment would go forth, in order to set the public right upon this matter. We therefore give his remarks *in extenso*. He said, "There had been imprisonment for debt, and gross misrepresentation had been made. Be it known to the public that by the Protection Acts imprisonment for debt to an honest man was now virtually abolished. Except in the case of a trader owing as much as £300, any debtor might obtain a protection, without one hour's imprisonment, until he came to the Court, and then, if guilty of fraud, as in this case, the protection would be withdrawn, and the debtor might be sent to prison, not for owing the debt, but for having contracted it fraudulently. He (the Learned Commissioner) was anxious these remarks should go forth to the public now that the question of imprisonment for debt was being discussed, for the law did not press in the manner that some persons represented; and with respect to the restrictions on traders to £300, he certainly should like to see it extended to £500. Still there was the Court of Bankruptcy open to traders above that amount, but the expense was considerable. Although a trader in prison was allowed to petition for his discharge with any amount of debt, yet he was not allowed to petition in order to prevent imprisonment if he owed as much as £300. In the present case the debt had been incurred fraudulently, and the protection would be withdrawn. He presumed those who talked about imprisonment for debt did not wish to see it abolished in such a case as the present." He thereupon dismissed Mr. Burton's petition for protection, and the auctioneer was arrested on leaving the court.

"Banks and Co." was the mercantile-sounding appellation which Mr. Banks chose to adopt when Mr. Banks chose to think a name necessary in his business transactions. It was not always required in these matters; for Mr. Banks is one of the gentry who advertise to send wonderful things to silly people, upon receipt of so many postage stamps. It is somewhat strange that, after the repeated exposures of this particular game, newspapers, even some priding themselves upon their respectability, should render themselves accessory to duping their own readers by the insertion of such advertisements for the few shillings which each brings into the till. But newspapers will do such things, and cheerfully open their columns to the insolvency pettifogger, the transparent shallow swindler, and the hypocritical quack. Mr. Banks, therefore, found no difficulty in advertising that "Banks and Co." were open to purchase goods, for which fair value would be remitted by return of post. Mr. Keep, of Birmingham, forwarded accordingly twenty-two carabines, at an agreed price of ten shillings each. These Mr. Banks sold immediately at six shillings, and every shilling of the six was clear profit, by the superior commercial system upon which Banks and Co. conducted business. Mr. Keep, to whom the transaction was not equally lucrative, imagined that the dealing of Banks and Co. came within the scope of the criminal law, and brought Mr. Banks before the Lord Mayor. His Lordship inspected and commented upon several

of Mr. Banks's advertisements, of which the whole repertory appears to have been brought to light. The public were shown how this great commercial man, as Madame André, offered to instruct, for twenty-four postage-stamps, noble ladies or gentlemen to win the affection of as many of the opposite sex as their hearts may desire; how as Professor André, he promised for half-a-crown to reveal the future, calculate nativities, and correctly solve all questions. How also for twelve postage-stamps he would remit invaluable remedies for all known diseases; and how he would cure any personal defect, from foul breath to baldness or small-pox marks, for six. All this was duly set forth, and the end of all was, that the Lord Mayor could not see how to punish Mr. Banks for a criminal offence, and left Mr. Keep to take his remedy at common law.

A paragraph, "going the round of the papers," informs us that extensive preparations were made by the admirers of Mr. Humphrey Brown, at Tewkesbury, to celebrate his acquittal, confidently anticipated. Malt liquor was to have been an especial element in the rejoicing. There has been a great deal of this kind of thing at Tewkesbury, managed in a manner to make strangers believe the inhabitants of that town far less shrewd than we imagine them to be. We have no faith in these testimonials to Mr. Brown, as popular ovations. That a few of his friends and connections choose to take his part against honesty and common sense may be possible, but that any portion of the public, as such, views him under any other aspect than that of an insufficiently punished criminal, we very much doubt.

THE MURDER IN THE HAYMARKET.

ALTHOUGH the evidence adduced against Giovanni Lani, the Italian charged with the murder of Heloise Thaubin, was considered so complete as to justify the culprit's committal, additional facts having subsequently transpired, the accused was on Monday morning again arraigned in order that the case might be duly completed for his trial at the Central Criminal Court next sessions, which commence on the 5th of April.

Huggett, a detective officer, produced a watch and a ring, which he obtained from a Mr. Bryer, a gold refiner, of Barbican. These articles, Virginia Sylvestre, a Frenchwoman, identified as the property of the deceased, Heloise Thaubin; adding that she wore them on the night of the murder.

Mr. George Hill, shopman to Mr. Bryer, deposed that he bought the watch and ring from the prisoner on Wednesday, February 24, in the morning. He gave him 30s. for the watch and 8s. for the ring. The prisoner at first refused those amounts for the articles; but returning in about half an hour afterwards, accepted the offer.

Philip Kroll, head waiter at Klein's Hotel, Finsbury Square, was then called. He said:—I remember the prisoner arriving at our hotel on Monday, the 8th of February. He resided up to the 23rd with us, on which night he slept out. He returned on Wednesday, about four o'clock in the afternoon. He came in holding a handkerchief to his face, and I said, "What ails you?" He said, "I was on board, and got scratched with the cat." This was about four o'clock in the afternoon. I said it seemed like scratches from a human cat. He first said "No," and then nodded assent. He then went and fetched a portmanteau, put it into a cab at the door, and went away. The shirt produced by Huggett, who found it amongst the prisoner's luggage, I identify as belonging to the prisoner. I saw the stains of blood on the breast when he came.

The prisoner fairly laughed when the evidence as to the cat scratching him was interpreted.

Dr. Totthill, of Charles Street, identified the shirt as one he had seen before at the police-station, and which he had examined. The stains upon it were in his opinion those of blood and mucus. When he first saw the deceased blood and mucus were flowing from the nostrils.

The prisoner was then committed for trial. In prison he is said to amuse himself with humming cheerful airs or whistling.

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST.

On the same day, the Coroner for Westminster resumed the inquiry into the cause of the death of Heloise Thaubin.

The evidence adduced was merely a repetition of that given before the magistrate. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against Giovanni Lani."

The funeral of the unfortunate woman took place on Friday week, at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Chelsea. The mourners, seventeen in number, occupied two mourning coaches and a couple of cabs. Groups of people had collected at several points of the route, to catch a glimpse of the funeral. The services for the burial of the dead were read in the chapel and at the grave; after which garlands of immortelles were hung upon the shrubs adjacent to the grave by her female friends.

THE STEVENAGE MURDER.

At Hertford on Friday commenced the trial of Jeremiah Carpenter, for the murder of John Starkins.

The counsel for the prosecution (Mr. Hawkins) narrated the circumstances under which the charge was made:—The deceased, a young man, was a constable stationed at Stevenage. The prisoner was a labouring man, residing in a cottage about half a mile from Stevenage, and at the time of the murder was in the service of Mr. Home, who occupied a farm called Norton Green Farm, about a mile from the town. Mr. Home suspected that he was being robbed by some persons in his service, and on Friday, the 30th of October, the day of the murder, the deceased was instructed to watch the prisoner as he came from his work and ascertain if he had any of his master's property about him. Starkins left Stevenage about five in the evening with this object. He was dressed in his uniform, but with a plain great-coat over it, and it appeared that he took with him a pair of handcuffs and a stick. He was seen by several persons going straight in the direction usually taken by the prisoner in returning from work, and he was particularly observed at a place called Woolmer Common, looking towards a field called Cooper's Braches field, and, apparently observing some one in that direction, he immediately made off towards the field. This was about half-past five o'clock in the evening, and the unfortunate man was never again seen alive. It was not till the following Monday morning that a constable named Isgate discovered Starkins's body in a deep pond in Cooper's Braches field. There were several severe cuts on the throat, which had the effect of nearly severing the head from the body, and there were marks of violence on the face of the deceased. At a distance of about twenty yards from the pond, there was found to be a large space covered with blood. At short distances from this spot were also such appearances as would have presented themselves had a desperate struggle taken place there; and about a pint or a pint and a half of wheat was strewn about, or trodden into the earth. Between these two places the handcuffs of the deceased, open, and his stick were picked up. The prisoner was in the habit of leaving his work about half-past five o'clock; and as the distance to his cottage was about a mile, it would not have occupied more than twenty, or at most twenty-five minutes, to get from his master's farm to his own cottage. On the morning of the murder, he had been at work in a field called the Railway Field, and he left off at a quarter-past five, and the last that was observed of him was when he was walking through a turnip field which adjoined Cooper's Braches field. According to the time when the prisoner left his work he should have arrived at his own cottage by half-past five or twenty-five minutes to six o'clock, but from the period when he was last seen getting over a gap into the field where the dead body was discovered, nothing more was heard of him until five or ten minutes past six o'clock, when he was seen to go into his cottage by the back way, very late, and apparently in great suffering. At this time he had on an old smock-frock and a wide-awake hat, and very soon afterwards his wife gave an alarm that he had met with some accident, and a neighbour and fellow-labourer of the prisoner, named Shepherd, upon going into his yard, found him upon the ground in a very extraordinary position, with a log of wood resting upon one of his legs. He, however, very easily removed it, and the suggestion was that this was merely a scheme resorted to by the prisoner to account for some severe injuries which he had evidently recently received on the leg; and there was also this remarkable circumstance, that the prisoner, during the short period he had been home, appeared to have taken off all his old clothes, and had put on his Sunday smock-frock and hat. On the following morning the prisoner appeared to have gone to his work as usual, but he was unable to continue at it and he returned home, and although at that time the body had not been found, it would seem that an impression was entertained that the prisoner was in some way concerned with the disappearance of the unfortunate man. Mr. Hawkes, a police inspector, went to him and inquired which way he came from his work on the Friday night, and he said he had come through Gunnell's Wood, and in at the front of his cottage. Upon the discovery of the body the prisoner was apprehended. His clothes were taken possession of, and they were submitted to chemical examination by Professor Taylor, who discovered stains of blood upon the breeches, gaiters, and shirt of the prisoner's cottage, and there was in it a small quantity of wheat of the same kind as that found in the field at the spot where the struggle appeared to have taken place. It was positively stated that the wheat found in the Cooper's Braches field, that in the prisoner's basket, and some which belonged to his master, were all of the same description. The prisoner was asked for his knife; it was taken to pieces, and a spot of blood was found

under the handle. The old smock-frock that was supposed to have been worn by the prisoner on the night of the murder, had never been discovered, but in a cupboard in his cottage were found some remnants of a smock-frock, stating that since the assizes had commenced a fresh piece of evidence had been obtained in a statement made by the prisoner himself; and it appeared that, if he should succeed in establishing it to the satisfaction of a jury, it would leave them no alternative but to convict the prisoner of the crime imputed to him.

Thirty witnesses were examined on behalf of the prosecution—their evidence establishing nearly the whole of the material facts detailed in the opening speech of the Learned Counsel for the prosecution; but the cross-examination of the prisoner (Serjeant Parry), in the cross-examination, succeeded in establishing an apparent discrepancy as to the time when the prisoner and the unfortunate man were last seen on the night of the murder. He elicited the fact that the prisoner's nose was in the habit of bleeding, and that shortly before the murder he had been assisting to ring some pipes, and that they bled a good deal during the operation. In answer to questions put at the suggestion of the jury, it also appeared that no special instructions had been given to the deceased to look after the prisoner particularly on the night of the murder, but his directions were to look about the field in the neighbourhood of Norton Green Farm on that evening until half-past five o'clock, and then to report himself at the police-station. The case for the prosecution was closed by a piece of evidence of an extraordinary character.

William Quint, one of the Herts constabulary, deposed that on the previous Wednesday evening, at the breaking up of the Court, he was ordered to attend the prison van to the jail, and he was placed inside. There were separate compartments for the prisoners. Among the other prisoners Carpenter was placed in the van, and a man who had been convicted of receiving stolen property and sentenced to ten months' imprisonment. It was in a position where the prisoners could not see him, and just before the van started, he heard the prisoner say to the other man, "What have you got?" and he replied, "Ten months." The prisoner then said, "I have not had my trial." The other man asked him what he was in for, and Carpenter said in reply, "For the murder of Starkins." Nothing more passed until the van arrived at the prison gates, and when it stopped the prisoner again addressed the other man, and said, "Do you know whether Shepherd (one of the witnesses for the prosecution) has said anything?" The man replied "No," and the prisoner then said, "If he has, he will do me." The van was then driven into the jail-yard, and when it got inside, the man said to the prisoner, "Do they know who done it?" and the prisoner replied, "I done it, but nobody knows it."

This witness, upon being cross-examined by Serjeant Parry, said this was the only time he had ridden in the van, and it was quite accidental that he had done so in this instance. He did not know the name of the other man who had the conversation with the prisoner. Serjeant Parry was proceeding with the cross-examination of the witness, when the latter fell down in a fit, and it was found necessary to postpone the cross-examination till next day. He then persisted in declaring that he heard the conversation referred to pass between the prisoner and the other man.

It was found that the only prisoner sentenced to ten months' imprisonment was a man named Ringsell, for receiving stolen property. He was sent for by the Judge, and being sworn he said that on Wednesday evening when he was in the van, going to the jail, some one asked him what he had got, and he replied ten months' imprisonment; but he swore positively that nothing else passed between them, and that no other conversation of any kind took place in the van as it was going from the court to the jail, or when it entered the jail-yard; but Mary Anne Dunning, a daughter of one of the jailers, swore that she was riding inside the van on Wednesday evening, and that talking began among the prisoners inside soon after the van started, and continued till it stopped at the prison, and when it had entered the gates it commenced again; but her father, who was riding behind the van, then interfered and put a stop to it, as it was against the prison rules for the prisoners to talk to each other.

Stephen Dunning, the father, was also examined, and he said that he heard talking in the van when it was at the jail gate, but only two or three words, and that he immediately put a stop to it.

Mr. Serjeant Parry then proceeded to address the jury for the prisoner in a very telling speech. That it was a case of suspicion, of strong suspicion, if they pleased, he would not deny, but no man's life ought to be taken upon suspicion only. The theory of the prosecution appeared to be, that the deceased had received special instructions on the day of the murder to watch the prisoner, upon the suspicion that he had committed some offence, and that this had led to the fatal rencontre between them; but the evidence failed to make out that supposition, and he urged upon the jury that although they might have their suspicions upon the subject, there was no direct testimony to show that the prisoner and the deceased ever came in contact on that fatal night. With regard to the evidence given by the policeman Quint, he was contradicted in several material particulars by other persons in the van; and he urged upon the jury the extreme improbability that the prisoner should have made such a statement to men of whom he knew nothing.

The jury consulted upon their verdict for about half an hour; when returning into court, they thought it a case of great suspicion, but there was not sufficient direct evidence to justify them in finding him guilty. The prisoner was therefore ordered to be discharged.

POLICE.

MODERN SORCERY.—Ellen Collins, an old dirty-looking female, was charged with obtaining money by pretending to tell fortunes.

Mary Dickson, the wife of a corn and potato merchant, in Bermondsey, said that in May last, prior to her marriage, the prisoner called at her house, and saw her and her sister. They stood at the door, when she said that a heavy calamity would befall her, and that she could avert it if they paid her a little money. Witness paid a shilling, when prisoner pulled out a pack of cards, and cut them. Her sister also cut them, and gave her two shillings. Witness then wanted prisoner to tell her witness's fortune, when prisoner said she would call again in a few days when she must have more money. The prisoner's story frightened her sister, who had been ill ever since.

Mr. Burcham asked her whether she told her about her sweetheart, such as the colour of his hair or skin?

Witness replied that she told her intended husband had dark hair and complexion, whereas her husband had light hair, and was of light complexion.

Mr. Burcham asked how often prisoner had called on witness?

Witness answered, three times. The last time her husband was home, and she pointed her out to him and he gave her into custody.

Mr. Burcham asked whether she told her the time when the dreadful calamity would take place?

She replied that the prisoner told her it would occur in February last, but nothing of the kind happened. They, however, watched for it.

Prisoner denied the charge, and said she only called on the lady to sell caps.

Mr. Burcham told her he had no doubt that she was one of that class of persons who prowled about victimising the unwary. She must be committed to prison for one month.

ROBBERY BY A BARISTER'S CLERK.—George Perry, about forty years of age, was charged with embezzling money, received by him as fees on behalf of his employer, Mr. Borlase Hill Adams, of Lincoln's Inn, barrister.

Charles Bryan, clerk to Messrs. Tatham and Co., solicitors, of Austin Friars, City, in that capacity paid the prisoner £5 10s. on the 27th of February, 1856, being a fee of five guineas for Mr. Adams, and his own clerk's fee of 5s. On the 12th of May, 1855, he paid a fee of £4 4s., receiving on each occasion a receipt from the defendant.

It was stated that a number of other fees had been paid in the same way, amounting to about £25; but two cases only were selected for prosecution.

Mr. Adams deposed that the fees in evidence were never paid to him by the prisoner, whose duty it was, however, to account immediately for all sums received by him on his (the prosecutor's) behalf. He had discovered that prisoner had been a defaulter to a considerable extent.

Police-sergeant William Buck, deposed to having apprehended the prisoner on the present charge. He at once admitted his guilt, and implored the prosecutor to have mercy on him for the sake of his wife and children.

The prisoner having offered no defence, Mr. Jardine committed him for trial.

DOMESTIC THEFTS.—Emma Durrant, a young woman, was finally examined, charged with stealing a malachite seal and valuable court-suit.

Margaret Humphreys, housekeeper to Professor Swinton, of Piccadilly, said that the prisoner was three years household maid there, and left on the 26th of May. Shortly after she had gone, a malachite seal was missed, and the prisoner, whose honesty witness had occasion to question previously, was suspected to have committed the theft. On the 13th ult., witness went to where the prisoner had lodged, and in her box there had found duplicates relating to both the seal and a court-suit belonging to Mr. Archibald Swinton, her master's brother, as also the key of the box in which it was kept.

Sergeant Lovelace proved that he apprehended the prisoner on her discharge from the Westminster House of Correction, whither she had been committed for robbing another master.

Mr. Smith, pawnbroker, 17, Victoria Road, produced the court-suit, which had been pledged by the prisoner, at first for a smaller amount, but subsequently increased to £8. The seal had been pawned by another woman.

Prisoner, who when taken expressed her fear that she should be transported for life, pleaded guilty, and was committed for trial.

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Dessert Spoons	110	0	10	0	11			